

THE AWARD-WINNING INDEPENDENT: EDITOR OF THE YEAR, CORRESPONDENT OF THE YEAR



No 3,860

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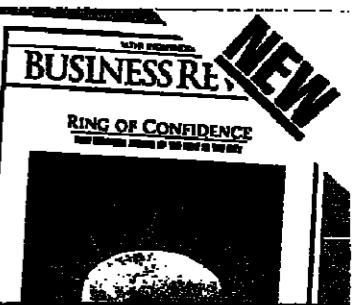
WEDNESDAY
REVIEW FRONT

WEDNESDAY 3 MARCH 1999

(150p) 45p

BUSINESS REVIEW

FREE INSIDE: 12-PAGE BROADSHEET MAGAZINE



Tourists raped and butchered in horrific act of revenge on Britain



Linda Adams from California, a hostage who got away by pretending to have an asthma attack, tells of her ordeal

By LUCY HANNAN in Kampala
ANDREW BUNCOMBE,
KIM SENGUPTA and
ED O'LOUGHLIN in Nairobi

EIGHT WESTERN tourists, including four Britons, were raped, tortured, and butchered by their Hutu kidnappers yesterday in an horrific act of revenge against Britain and America.

Survivors of the Ugandan safari kidnapping said that the Hutus deliberately selected the British and Americans tourists, releasing French and some other nationalities.

The rebels were looking for Americans and British," said Hussein Kivumbi, manager of one of five camps raided by the Hutu rebels.

"They killed four women and four men with knives, machetes and axes. There were no guns.

shots. They wanted them to move fast, but some couldn't. So they killed with machetes one man and one woman who couldn't walk. Then they killed another three.

There was no rescue. The soldiers found the bodies inside Congo, and then they found the six who were released and came down the mountain."

Captives who escaped said the execution-style killings came after the women had been raped.

Mr Kivumbi said the rebels left written messages on the massacred bodies, reading: "Americans and British, we don't want you on our land. You support our enemy Museveni."

The French deputy Ambassador to Uganda, Anne Peltier, was told by the kidnappers: "[We] are not happy with the Americans and British because

they have preferred to support the Tutsi ethnic minority against the Hutu majority."

Last night Tony Blair, on a trip to Italy, called the killing "an act of wickedness simply beyond belief".

He pledged to do "everything in Britain's power to pursue justice".

Hours after Mme Peltier and the other freed tourists fled the Hutus murdered eight of their hostages. One American survivor, Mark Ross, said: "The ones I saw had their heads

crushed and deep slashes with machetes."

They were killed the same way as most of the 800,000 Tutsis massacred by the Hutus in Rwanda in 1994.

Six tourists escaped, believed to be two Britons, an American, a Swiss woman, a New Zealander and a Canadian. They are in the Ugandan capital Kampala.

Last night one of dead Britons was named as Mark Lindgren, 23, a former university graduate from St Albans,

Hertfordshire, on holiday in south-western Uganda in the early hours on Monday. Four Ugandans - a game warden and three of his rangers - were killed as they tried to prevent the rebels from attacking the camp sites.

The High Commissioner in Kampala, Michael Cook, said: "Reports of clashes between the army and the rebels are still unconfirmed. Our concern is with these survivors to see that they are physically well, as most of them are in a very traumatised state."

Last night the bodies of the victims lay in the Mulago hospital morgue in Kampala. Officials, assisted by the survivors, will positively identify them today. Relatives have been kept informed.

It is thought 31 tourists were initially abducted in co-ordinated raids at three camp sites at the impenetrable Forest in the Bwindi National Park in

George Mukasa/Reuters

'I escaped by faking asthma'

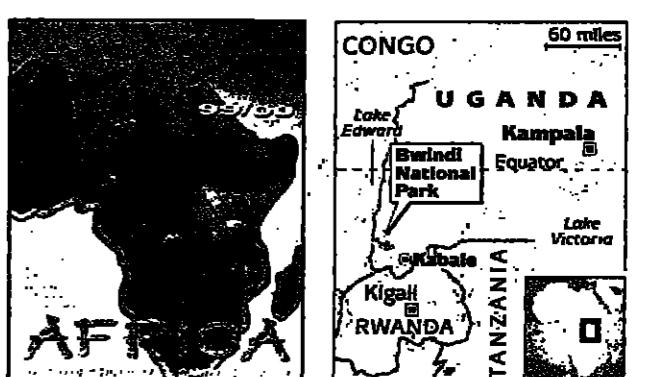
By KIM SENGUPTA
and ANDREW BUNCOMBE

to wander out of her tent to find out what was going on, rubbing the sleep from her eyes, was Ms Adams. "The sound in the valley, the vibration was quite a shock. I got out of my tent and I walked around the corner - and then I got caught," she recalled back in Kampala yesterday, at the Sheraton hotel, a world away from the nightmare of what happened at Bwindi.

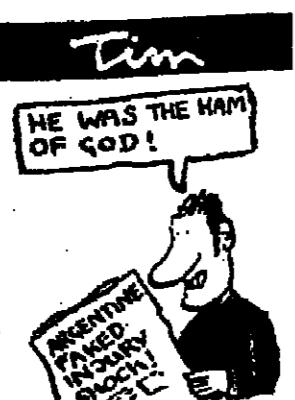
Ms Adams, of Alamo, southern California, was travelling alone. Her father had advised her against going because he was worried about her safety. She confirmed: "I saw gentlemen running with guns and four of them came over and grabbed me, all the money that I had, and told me to sit down. There was an older person leading them, he seemed quite calm. They all spoke French."

"After a while they brought

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Argentine admits foul play over Beckham



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Colonel Gaddafi said a deal was likely soon on Lockerbie suspects

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A coup in the KLA has led to increased hopes for a Kosovo peace deal

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TODAY'S TELEVISION
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tv gets better
i-t-v

From next Monday you'll find
Trevor McDonald at 6.30, not 10pm.
Which means there's now room
for uninterrupted films, dramas
and edgier shows.

All followed by a later news as
well: at 11pm, with

Dermot Murnaghan.

IT
Moving



IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

'Half the boys in my year smoke dope. I've been offered it on the way to school'

IN THE EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT: A MOTHER DISCOVERS HER 13-YEAR-OLD SON TAKES DRUGS

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, IAN JACK, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, SUSANNAH FRANKEL, BRIAN Viner, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, DEBORAH ORR, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITWAM SMITH

Employer must pay injury benefits

THE GOVERNMENT plans to force employers to pay benefits to people who suffer injury or illness as a result of their work.

Alistair Darling, the Social Security Secretary, is modernising the industrial injuries scheme, which costs taxpayers £750m a year. He wants companies to meet the cost of future claims by taking out insurance.

The move will provoke a row with business leaders, who already pay £730m a year in compensation and legal costs for injuries found to be their fault.

Despite Tony Blair's strenuous efforts to woo industry, bosses are increasingly worried that the Government is imposing higher costs on companies through the national minimum wage, the EU social chapter of workers' rights, greater recognition rights for trade unions and the Working Families' Tax Credit scheme for the low-paid.

Mr Darling is expected to set out his proposals in a consultation document shortly. Legislation could follow in the Parliamentary session starting in November.

He believes the 50-year-old state system was designed for a very different social and industrial climate and wants to better protection for today's workforce.

Mr Darling will argue that a switch to private insurance would encourage employers to adopt good health and safety practice, since those causing few accidents or illnesses would pay lower premiums.

The number of people receiving industrial injuries disablement benefit has risen

from 212,000 to 347,000 during the past six years, and the budget has gone from £660m to £750m in two years.

Under his plans, the Government would continue to fund the benefits - worth up to £104.70 a week - to existing claimants, but employers would finance future payments.

The shake-up is backed by the Treasury keen to reduce the £100bn-a-year welfare budget by more private insurance.

The plan was welcomed last night by Frank Field, who resigned as Minister for Welfare Reform last summer.

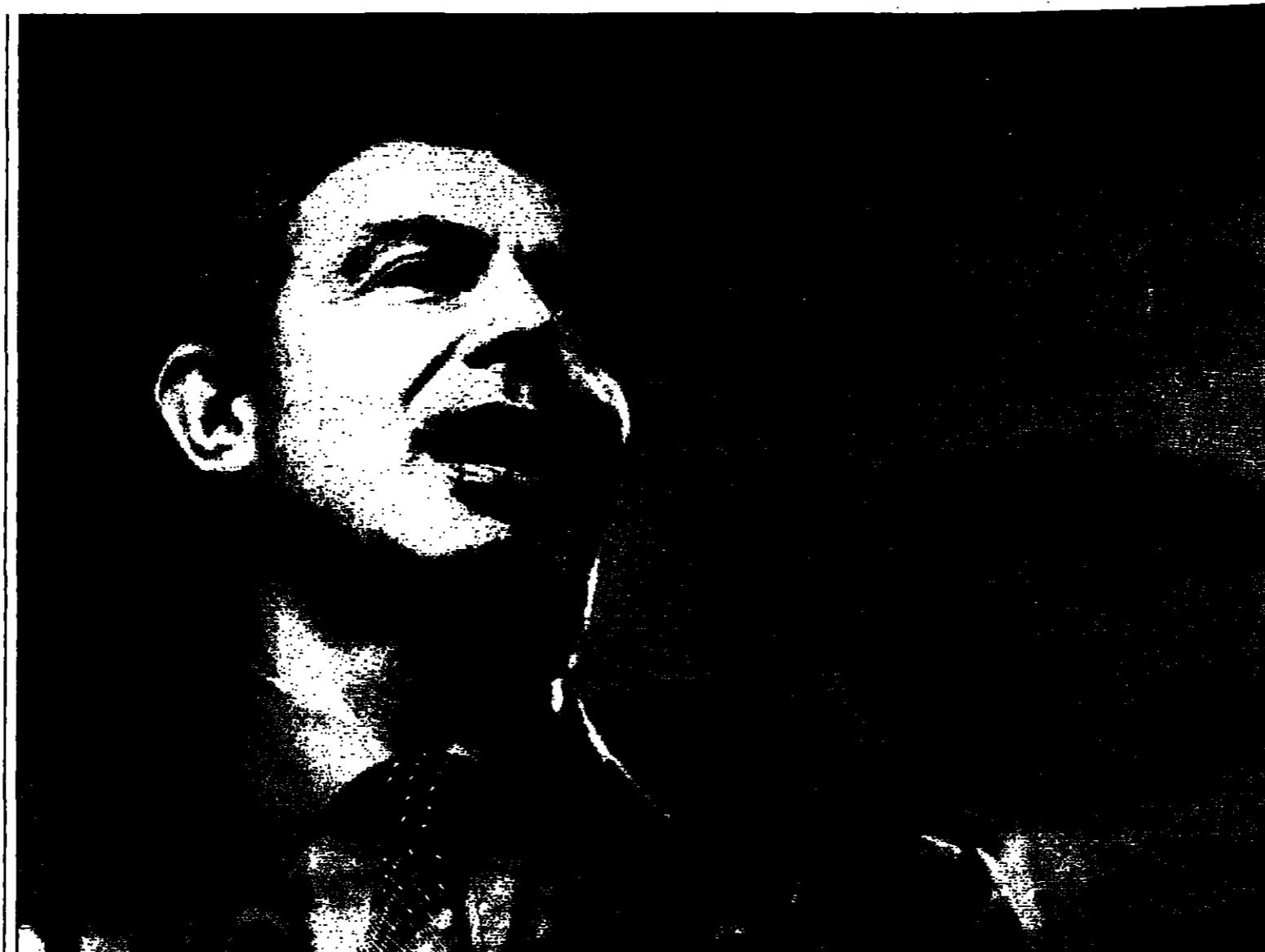
"At the moment, taxpayers are paying for employers who ruin people's lives," said Mr Field. "This would only be a burden that business would generate for itself. It could make a real difference to the rate of accidents."

The Trade Union Congress has welcomed Mr Darling's review but is anxious to ensure the changes would not reduce rights of workers to sue employers for work-related accidents or illnesses. It believes this could breach the European Convention on Human Rights.

A confidential TUC document

said: "Employers who cause injury or illness should be punished through a range of measures, from custodial sentences in cases such as corporate manslaughter to financial penalties such as fines, punitive and ordinary damages, recovery of NHS and benefit costs, and increased insurance premiums."

The Prime Minister told a meeting of socialist leaders, who hold power in 11 of the EU's 15 member states, they must not squander their opportunity by slipping back to traditional left-wing economic policies. Mr Blair said the European social model should be "modernised" to allow EU countries to compete in the global economy. This directly

Tony Blair in Milan yesterday, praising America's economic reforms and urging Europe to 'permanent revolution' *Paulo Cocco/Reuters*

Blair: Europe should emulate US

BY ANDREW GRICE

TONY BLAIR was on a collision course with fellow European Union leaders last night after urging them to adopt his strategy of "permanent revolution" and to emulate America's economic miracle.

The Prime Minister told a meeting of socialist leaders, who hold power in 11 of the EU's 15 member states, they must not squander their opportunity by slipping back to traditional left-wing economic policies.

But Mr Blair insisted that "demand-side policies of economic management" were no longer a sufficient guarantee of prosperity, and there was a "vital need" for economic reform.

The Prime Minister said the single currency "can be a force for stability" but added: "It's

only a foundation. Alongside it must come real economic reform that tackles the fundamental supply-side weakness of the European economy."

He insisted his call for reform did not mean he was opposed to social justice. But he argued that Europe was not delivering that - pointing to high unemployment, rising welfare costs and social exclusion.

Mr Blair's strong endorsement of America's economic strategy will anger some EU leaders, already uneasy over his co-operation with President Clinton on foreign policy.

He said Europe needed a dialogue with the Democratic Party, so the EU and US could learn from each other.

Mr Blair insisted that his "third way" between old-style socialism and right-wing policies was rooted in the centre-left. "It is the means that have changed. Enterprise and fairness used to be seen as in competition. Today they must be seen as partners."

The Prime Minister warned:

"We must go further, we must be bolder and we must do it with definition and confidence.

If we don't, make no mistake: the right will move in to the ground we vacate. It is not

enough to be parties of social justice. We must also be parties with the vision of the future our people understand and can be inspired by."

Michael Howard, the shadow foreign secretary, accused Mr Blair of "saying one thing in Britain while doing another in Europe". He criticised his "Trappist silence" on the political dimension of the single currency, and said the EU socialist meeting had agreed a manifesto which would "take Europe down the path of more red tape and more regulation".

Ken Livingstone, Review, page 4

Labour faces racism claim

BY NEIL RAFFERTY

THE LABOUR Party in Scotland is facing a court claim of racism, it was confirmed yesterday.

A former Strathclyde Labour councillor has launched an action at Glasgow Sheriff Court to sue the party for racial discrimination.

Neelam Bakshi, former councillor for Maryhill and Summerston, is claiming £20,000 in damages after being rejected from Labour's approved list of candidates for the Scottish Parliament.

Ms Bakshi, who now works for Fife Council, claims she was not told why she was rejected and was given no opportunity to appeal.

A Labour spokesman confirmed that the Party had been served with a writ but added that the claims were "ridiculous". He said: "She did have an appeal and the appeal was unsuccessful. A number of candidates did request and have meetings and we gave them feedback on the selection process, but she did not ask for one." The spokesman added: "Our system was open, democratic and fair."

Ms Bakshi, a councillor from 1990 to 1996, said that her case was being backed by the Commission for Racial Equality.

She added that although she did appeal against the selection panel decision she was given no explanation for her original rejection or for the failure of her subsequent appeal.

Ms Bakshi has won a previous racial discrimination case against Falkirk Council. The Commission for Racial Equality confirmed they had backed Ms Bakshi in the case in April 1996. But Ms Bakshi, who is still a member of the Labour Party, said it was a condition of the settlement that she was not allowed to talk publicly about the case.

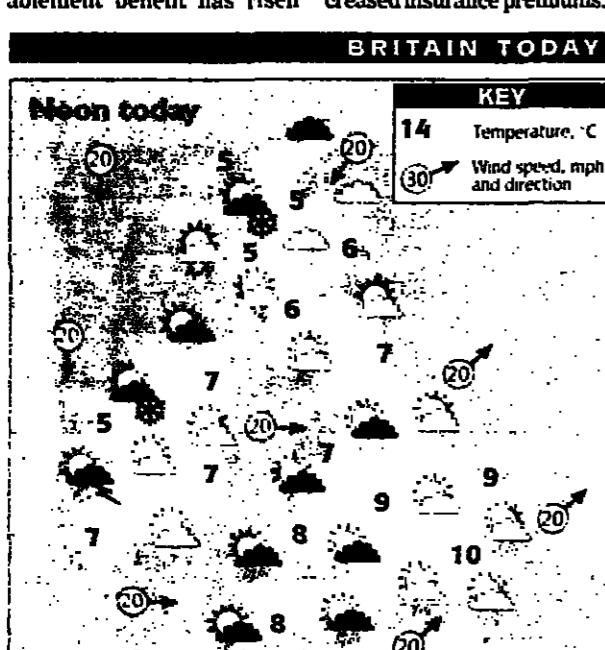
She added: "I do not make a habit of bringing race discrimination cases."

Glasgow Sheriff Court said no hearing date had been fixed.

african rebels who have their machete genocide

foreign Office not issuing

escape f



LIGHTING UP

Belfast 6.03pm to 7.07am

Birmingham 6.48pm to 6.48am

Bristol 5.53pm to 6.50am

Glasgow 5.55pm to 6.22am

London 5.50pm to 6.11am

Manchester 5.55pm to 6.50am

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Art owners told to allow public access

OWNERS OF artworks who have escaped inheritance tax by promising public access to their homes are to be told they must advertise their opening hours nationally.

After years of complaints that many of the treasures remained locked away from public gaze, officials are to write to more than 700 owners demanding to know how they will ensure people learn about them. The collections include three Rodin sculptures, a Picasso, four Renoirs, twenty Constables and two Goyas. Among the owners who benefit are the Duke of Roxburghe, who recently "donated" a £600,000 portrait of one of his ancestors under the scheme.

The revelation follows a report out today from the National Audit Office, which says just one in six of the works of art receives a visitor each year. Although more than 20,000 sculptures, paintings, drawings and other objects are listed on an Inland Revenue website, the proportion of works visited fell last year from one in five, the report says.

In most cases, the computerised register does not say where the artwork is kept but gives the address of an agent. Seven out of ten owners de-

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

hansen's Historic Houses, Castles and Gardens.

mand references before disclosing their addresses. Owners have complained that if their addresses are published they will be vulnerable to art thieves.

The audit office found one quarter of visits took more than two months to arrange and most visitors were professional researchers rather than just art lovers. One Inland Revenue agent waited three months for an appointment to see some portraits. An agent acting for the owner denied knowing about the paintings and then demanded a reference before making an appointment.

A spokeswoman for the Inland Revenue said a review of all the artworks would take place this year, with owners being asked to explain their plans for regular opening hours and wider advertising. Because owners would be forced to advertise there were plans to phase out the computerised register altogether, she added.

One of Britain's finest collections of Dutch Old Masters will be taken from its permanent home in the National Gallery in London for a tour to Southampton and Leeds, using a lottery grant of £99,300 awarded yesterday. The Heritage Lottery Fund announced a further £3.8m of funding for 22 projects in England and Northern Ireland, bringing the total awarded to more than £1.2bn.

Stricter regulations introduced last year now make it compulsory for owners to advertise regular opening hours.

They must do so through their local tourist board, on a notice board outside their home and in either Hudson's Historic Houses and Gardens or Jo-



Tony McCarroll leaves court yesterday (above) with cash, but only memories of pop glory, like early Beatle Pete Best (below, second from left) Peter Macdiarmid



The old Oasis, with Tony McCarroll (top left)

Sacked Oasis drummer in £600,000 deal

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

had queued for an hour to ensure a place in court 17 at the High Court, the brothers Gallagher did not appear.

Just as Pete Best was sacked from the Fab Four in 1962, so the drummer Tony McCarroll waved goodbye to fame and glory in 1995 when he was dismissed from Oasis.

Both men even chose the same lawyer, Jens Hills, when they went to court to claim their share of the royalties. Mr McCarroll was claiming 20 per cent of the band's earnings - a figure put variously at between £10m and £18m.

He appeared in court yesterday for the opening round of what was shaping up as one of the most sensational trials in the pop music.

But Mr McCarroll was again denied his 15 minutes of fame when the case was settled almost immediately.

Jonathan Rayner-James QC told the judge: "I am happy to tell you that the parties have come to terms and that will resolve all matters between the parties."

Far from becoming an instant millionaire, Mr McCarroll had agreed to forgo future royalties and had accepted a lump sum of £600,000 for the songs he had played on.

Nearly three years ago Mr Hills won £2m for Mr Best, the drummer on several tracks of the Beatles' anthology album. Yesterday, to the disappointment of a handful of fans who

had called him "the last Beatle", he said he had been sacked in a three-minute phone call from the manager, Marcus Russell, but he blamed Noel.

"At the end of the day it was he who made the decision for me to go. He [Noel] approached the band and said, 'Tony's gone'."

The Beatles' manager, Brian Epstein, had called Pete Best into his office 33 years earlier and told him he was being replaced by Ringo Starr. "The lads want you out," he said.

When Mr McCarroll found out he had been replaced by Alan White, a session musician and the only Londoner in the group, he approached Mr Hills seeking money for being unlawfully expelled from the partnership.



Fugitive, 10, found in US

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

began searching for him. He has now been found in Detroit, Michigan, with his father.

Harry Fletcher, the assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said: "It would be best to try to persuade the father that it is in the best interests of the child to return to Britain and face the consequences of what he is alleged to have done."

A spokesman for Thames Valley Police said: "He has been traced to an address in the United States where he has been, with his father, since before the court appearance."

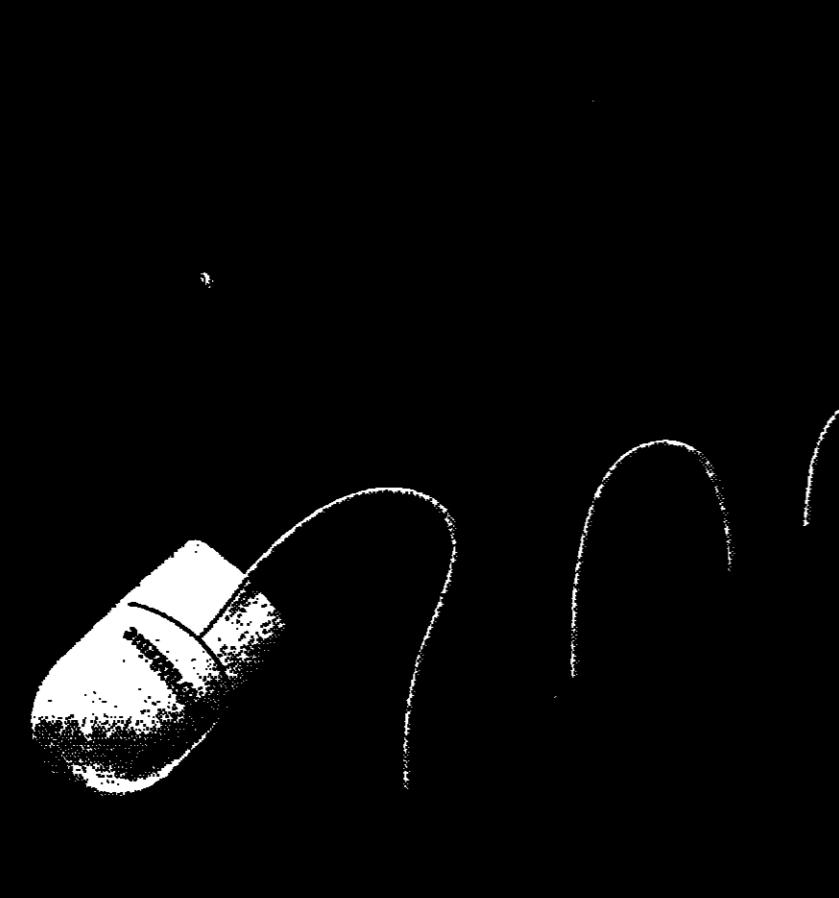
Inspector Robin Gardner of Banbury police said: "The next step is to work out what action

to take. The decision will be made with advice from the Crown Prosecution Service, social services and the court."

A spokesman for Thames Valley Police said: "He has been traced to an address in the United States where he has been, with his father, since before the court appearance."

Inspector Robin Gardner of Banbury police said: "The next step is to work out what action

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Woman saw Jews marched to death

A WOMAN who was forced by the Nazis to act as a witness to their atrocities told Britain's first war crimes trial yesterday how she watched hundreds of Jews being marched to their deaths.

Galina Puchkina was aged 12 when the Nazis made her watch as Jews were forced to undress and then herded along the so-called "route of death" in the Nazi-occupied town of Domachevo in Belarus. Later she would hear the sound of machine-gun fire.

Mrs Puchkina, 68, told the

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

Old Bailey she and her sister had been attending a Catholic church in Domachevo on the morning of the Jewish Day of Atonement in 1942. Soldiers grabbed them and took them to a hill overlooking the town's Jewish ghetto, she said.

In front of them they saw hundreds of men, women and children. They could hear quite clearly the sound of them crying and shouting.

Speaking through a Russian interpreter, Mrs Puchkina said:

"They were all being taken to their deaths. There were lots of them – about 2,000."

"They were herded away – as we watched them. We were afraid ourselves. After the first group were led away, I heard the sound of machine-gun fire. After the third, the Germans told us to go home. We did. My sister took flight immediately – she was three years younger."

The court has previously been told that 2,900 Jews were murdered that day, before being buried in mass graves in sand hills on the outskirts of the

town. When locals visited the site a few days later, the ground was soaked with blood.

Mrs Puchkina was giving evidence during the trial of Anthony Sawonuk, 77, who is alleged to have assisted the Nazis while working as a police officer in Domachevo during the German occupation of Belarus between 1941 and 1944. He is accused of murdering up to 20 Jews while organising "search and kill" operations on behalf of the Nazis after the massacre in September 1942.

Mr Sawonuk, a former

British Rail ticket collector now living in south London, denies the charges.

Yesterday Mrs Puchkina said Mr Sawonuk had served with the Nazis' locally recruited police force from the outset. "Judging from how he behaved afterwards, I believe he joined voluntarily," she said.

Another woman from a nearby village said she narrowly escaped death after being mistaken for a Jew by a German and a local policeman whom she knew as Andrusha – the nickname of Mr Sawonuk.

Fedora Yakimuk, 72, told the court she cut herself accidentally while working in the fields with a sickle. She said her mother had bound the wound with a rag soaked in iodine.

"But the iodine came through the rag and there was a yellow mark on my arm." Mrs Yakimuk told the court through a Ukrainian interpreter.

"The Jews would wear yellow arm bands. At the time Andrusha was walking along with a German. They saw me and started shouting 'Jude, Jude' (Jew, Jew) with the intention of

making me stop. I stopped and they grabbed me and started dragging me away to be shot."

"I was crying and kissing their feet, explaining, 'I am not a Jew.' He knew me very well, but did not protect me. Andrusha did not protect me. I was on my knees, kissing the German's feet."

"When he realised, the German pulled off the bandage and saw what it was and let me go."

"It was about a week after the massacre of the Jews."

The trial continues.



Galina Puchkina: "They were herded away"

Triumphant Bainbridge enunciates her mind

THE NOVELIST Beryl Bainbridge won a major literary prize yesterday and followed it with musings that are unlikely to be beaten for political incorrectness in the whole of the prize-giving season.

First, she called for elocution lessons to be made compulsory in schools. In case that was not politically incorrect enough, Ms Bainbridge then guaranteed the wrath of her home city.

Although she is one of Liverpool's most famous daughters, the 64-year-old writer and former actress urged that all young people from the city endeavour to lose the Liverpool accent, which she described as "nasal" and "stupid".

Exuberant at winning the £10,000 Whitbread Literary Award for her novel *Master Georgie* after missing out on the Booker and Whitbread prizes, Ms Bainbridge nevertheless played down both the value of book prizes and the love of reading in Britain.

Receiving her prize from the Arts minister Alan Howarth, who is promoting the Government's "Year of Reading", she said that she did not believe that the percentage of

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

the population now reading novels was much greater than it was in Dickens' time.

"Sometimes I wonder whether I'm being given prizes at my age out of sympathy or pity ... I'm rather fortunate that all these things that are happening to me in the last two or three years are happening late enough for me not to take them too seriously," she said.

Speaking later, she explained why she did not take book prizes too seriously, and did so with a reasoning unlikely to be endorsed by Mr Howarth, her home city or the nation's largest bookseller, which was giving the prize.

She said: "I'm not sure that prizes have a great deal of effect on the majority of people, but then the majority of people are uneducated."

"When I grew up in Liverpool in the Forties, I was in the Young Communists League at the age of 12, and it was people who were interested in politics who encouraged me to read.

"What would help England



Beryl Bainbridge with her prize-winning novel: 'What would help England now would be to have elocution lessons in schools' Tom Craig

now would be to have elocution lessons in all schools. I had elocution lessons from the age of 11. I went with Jean Alexander [who played Hilda Ogden in Coronation Street] and they

help you, not just to speak, but to enjoy language and reading. The uneducated now cannot spin out a sentence. You can't have an education system that works for the majority if

you publish a newspaper like The Sun."

As part of her drive for elocution for all, she advocated that Liverpudlians should lose their accent. "It's not a di-

lect," she said. "It's nasal, and that's what they should get rid of. My father didn't have that stupid Liverpool accent."

"Have you ever listened to them on Brookside? They don't speak the English language."

Mr Howarth said that he had been delighted to present Ms Bainbridge with her cheque and noted that it had been an excellent lunch.

Commons debates the deadly danger of asteroids

MEMBERS OF Parliament will have an opportunity today to discuss the end of the world as we know it, when they debate the prospect of the Earth being hit by an asteroid.

Lembit Opik, the Liberal Democrat MP for Montgomeryshire, has been granted parliamentary time for a debate on the threat posed to civilisation by the future impact of a chunk of wandering space rock.

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

Professor Mark Bailey, the director of the Armagh Observatory in Northern Ireland, is supporting Mr Opik in trying to raise the Government's awareness of an event that could ruin global agriculture by releasing millions of tons of dust into the atmosphere and blotting out the Sun. "Major cosmic

impacts don't occur very often, but when they do they have the potential to kill billions of people," Professor Bailey said.

"An object one kilometre in diameter is generally accepted to be big enough to cause global devastation. No matter where they hit, they'll have a global effect," Professor Bailey said.

It is believed that a giant asteroid smashed into the Gulf of Mexico 65 million years ago

and killed off the dinosaurs. A much smaller object destroyed hundreds of square miles of forest when it exploded over Siberia nearly 100 years ago.

Estimates of the number of

asteroids bigger than one kilometre across have increased in the past 10 years through learning more about the orbits of near-Earth objects, he said.

Astronomers calculate there

are at least 2,000 such objects that at some time will pass across the Earth's orbital path around the Sun, making it likely that at least one of them will strike the planet every 100,000 years.

Jonathan Tate, director of Spaceguard UK, an organisation dedicated to raising awareness about asteroid collisions,

said the chances of being killed by an asteroid impact is twice as high as dying in an aircraft

crash. "The whole subject suffers from a substantial giggle factor. However, it's now technically possible to avoid, or at least mitigate the effects of impacts," he said.

The most threatening objects arise from the main asteroid belt of the Solar System, between Mars and Jupiter, and their movements can be tracked from Earth using military satellites, Professor Bailey said. "Asteroid collisions can be predicted and can be potentially averted. A nuclear explosion just off the surface of the object is possibly the way it could be done," he said.

Last year scientists warned that a large asteroid could pass relatively close to Earth in 2026. Travelling at 17,000mph, the asteroid would release the same energy as several nuclear bombs if it hit the Earth.

ley said. "There is evidence that toxic dumping is very prevalent in the United States. We know it happens here, but we do not yet know the extent of the problem," Mr Hall said.

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Dundee gives Africa wet response

CHARLES KINGTON
'formulaic' is a word
much used by lazy
TV executives

soundbites

eath



Galina Puchkina: were herded away

Police warn of illegal cloning

By JASON RENNIE
Crime Correspondent

AN ILLEGAL trade in body parts, often encouraged children to identify by name police spokesman, who for organ transplant.

The human cloning unit at the National Intelligence Service has issued a warning about the use of illegal parts, as well as the threat to

Crime, the human cloning unit at the National Intelligence Service has issued a warning about the use of illegal parts, as well as the threat to

Soundbites and slogans join great quotes of the age

By DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

THE SOUNDBITE has been acknowledged as equally important in the history of the 20th century as the seminal political speech or the utterances of the greatest scientists and inventors.

The paperback edition of *The Oxford Dictionary of 20th Century Quotations* is published at the end of the year, and the compilers have "gone to work on an egg", setting up a generous section on advertising slogans bound to irritate novelists, and parents already driven to distraction by children mimicking TV catchphrases.

Alas, Salman Rushdie's "Naughty but Nice" from his brief sojourn as a copywriter fails to make the Oxford. He has to be satisfied with the less catchy quote from his post-advertising days: "One of the things a writer is for is to say the unsayable, speak the unspeakable and ask difficult questions."

Elizabeth Knowles, the *Dictionary* editor says: "It is possible to see different forms of source becoming dominant. In



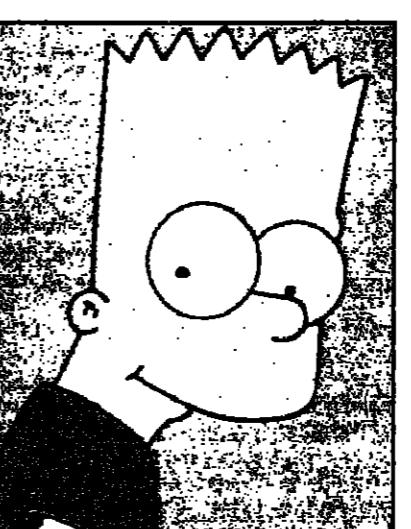
"Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few" Winston Churchill on the Battle of Britain, House of Commons, 1940



"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" Neil Armstrong, 1969



"You cannot be serious" John McEnroe to a Wimbledon umpire, 1981



"Eat my shorts" Bart Simpson, 1990 and onwards



"Go to work on an egg" British Egg Marketing Board, 1957

the first half of the century the major sources of quotation came from the written word in poetry, plays and novels, or the spoken word through the medium of major speeches on formal occasions. Lately, the possible canon has widened to include

what might be thought more ephemeral material - soundbites, online sources, films, television and advertisements."

Ms Knowles points out that through what seem ephemeral soundbites we can trace changes in manners and social

mores, and track the "sound of the 20th century". She says: "Evening all" is Sergeant Dixon's opening to Dixon of Dock Green, first spoken in 1956; a contrast to the 1990s aggression of "I'm Bart Simpson, who the hell are you?"

One of the most interesting sections deals with misquotations of the century. Ms Knowles says: "One of the features of popular culture is that quoted material is often modified by the quoter." So, if you thought someone really did say

"Beam me up, Scotty" or "Crisis, what crisis?" or "The white heat of technology" or "Play it again, Sam" or "Me Tarzan, you Jane" you would be wrong. They were: "Beam us up, Mr Scott", and "Crisis, what crisis?" was a *Sun* headline, not a piece

of prime ministerial rhetoric by James Callaghan. And even that might have been borrowed from a Supertramp album title. Harold Wilson actually talked about "The white heat of this revolution" and Humphrey Bogart said, simply, "Play it, Sam".

And the immortal "Me Tarzan, you Jane" was neither in movies nor the books. The Tarzan film star Johnny Weissmuller said it in a magazine interview as a throwaway line. Leading article, Review, page 3

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Smoking rising for first time since 1972

By NIGEL COPE AND
JEREMY LAURANCE

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST cigarette manufacturer yesterday claimed that adult smoking was on the increase for the first time in a generation, fuelled by a flood of cheap, bootlegged imports.

Gallaher, which produces the Benson & Hedges and Silk Cut brands, said the proportion of British adults who smoke cigarettes rose from 22.3 per cent to 23.2 per cent last year. The rise equates to half a million more adult smokers.

The company says the high levels of duty imposed on tobacco in the UK meant a typical packet of 20 cigarettes costs £2.60 compared with £2.60 on the black market. The Government is committed to above-inflation rises in tobacco duty each year to help curb smoking. Gallaher said it had given its findings to the Government ahead of next week's Budget: "Our message to the Government is that if you are doing this to reduce smoking, it's not working."

Gallaher denied that cutting duty levels would also lead to a rise in smoking. "It is better to have control of the market... so we can stop the selling of cigarettes to children," a spokesman claimed.

But pressure groups blamed the rise in smoking on promotion by the tobacco companies. A spokeswoman for the anti-smoking pressure group Ash said: "The companies have been targeting students by concentrating their marketing around nightclubs and handing out free cigarettes at promotional events. We know there has been a rise in smoking

among teenagers and those in their early twenties but it is not bootlegging that is responsible."

If the rise claimed by Gallaher is confirmed it will be the reversal of a downward trend. Smoking has been declining steadily at about 1 per cent a year since 1972 when half the population were regular smokers. Latest figures for 1997 show 28 per cent of women and 29 per cent of men smoke.

A survey by Mintel last year

gave the first sign that the 25-year fall in smoking had stopped. It suggested the overall number of smokers had risen slightly. New official figures will not be published until later this year. There was a dip in the figures in 1996, the most recently published data. According to the government's General Household Survey that year the proportion of adults smoking rose from 28 per cent to 29 per cent between 1994-96.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is likely to increase taxes on cigarettes in his Budget next week despite Treasury concern about an alarming rise in tobacco smuggling, ministers hinted yesterday. During question time in the Commons, Tessa Jowell, the Public Health minister, gave a clear signal that taxes would be increased.

Mr Brown is expected to announce an investigation into the operation of Customs and Excise after officials said he was losing more than £1bn in duty a year through organised smuggling.

Dundee gives African tribe wet response

By STEPHEN GOODWIN
Scotland Correspondent

WHAT'S IN a name? Take Dundee. A tribal chief from Cameroon was so struck by the similarity between the internal alliterative qualities of the name and that of his own village, he wanted them twinned.

To Chief Gaston Kamsing - who consulted an atlas for a suitable partner - the Scottish town sounded pretty much like Ndounde. Ndounde has a population of 2,000 - mainly subsistence farmers, while Dundee, the erstwhile capital of jute and jam, has 150,000 residents. But it was the sound of

the name that was important.

Alas, Dundee is already twinned with five cities so council leaders "politely declined" the request. But tonight local businesses are supporting a charity auction to raise £20,000 to provide Ndounde with a fresh water supply. "I know the people of Cameroon are grateful for the support we've offered," said the Lord Provost, Mervyn Rose. "All we've asked is they send us a couple of decent footballers."

TV NEWS IS GETTING BETTER

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MILES KINGTON

'Formulaic' is a word
much used by lazy
TV executives

IN THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW PAGE 2

itv

Shyness
binders
cancer
testingBy JEREMY LAWRENCE
Health EditorBRITISH HUMANITARIAN
ORGANISATION Oxfam
has been criticised for failing
to tell people it offered medical
aid to the Balkans yesterday.People's distrust of
charities' actions and
functions is the key to
the success of Europe's
newly formed peace process
according to the director
general of the Cancer Research
Campaign, Peter McEvie.The new peace process
which was announced last
month in Paris yesterday is the
first to be negotiated
and widely welcomed
in London and the
rest of Europe, says
Trevor Grange, director
of Scotland. It may be
well to wait to see what a
full peace agreement
and the task ahead.They will be needed
as a sample for further
testing for the peace in the
rest of the Balkans.Those who feel that
will be invited to a
negotiation between
the Balkans and the
rest of the world.The author of the peace
and development
plan, which is now
known as the Paris
plan, is more than
the author of the
plan.Mr Grange says
most people are
responsible and
there is a clear
path to peace.Many people in the
West, including
those in the
United States,
are clear
about the
need for
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and the
rest of the
world.The author of the
plan, which is now
known as the Paris
plan, is more than
the author of the
plan.Kosovo army
'coup' brings
hope of peaceTHE YOUNG men who run
Kosovo's guerrilla army have
deposed the movement's revolu-
tionary elder statesman, a
move that appears to ensure
the Albanian delegation will
sign the peace deal brokered at
Rambouillet last month.Adem Demaci, the radical
who served 28 years in Serbian
prisons for his separatist ideals,
issued a passionate denunciation
of the deal, declaring that it
"will not liberate Kosovo
from Serbian slavery". Despite
his protest, the new generation
has decided the Rambouillet
deal offers the best hope for
eventual independence.Hashim Thaci, known as
Commander Snake, is lined up
to become prime minister in a
provisional Kosovar Albanian
government that will rule until
elections are held nine months
after the deal is signed.Power, both political and mil-
itary, now stems from the
general headquarters of the
Kosovo Liberation Army
(KLA), run by Suleiman Selimi,
known as Sultan. Mr Thaci and
two others, all of them friends
from student days in Pristina.The Democratic League of
Kosovo, once the political face
of Albanian separation, and
the new Liberal Democratic
Party, will share ministries with
the KLA but are clearly the
junior partners now.According to Dukagjin
Gorani, an Albanian journalist
attached to the peace delegation
in Rambouillet, Mr Thaci (who
was sentenced in absentia to 22
years' jail for terrorist offences
by the Yugoslav courts) is the
pragmatist who forged
consensus among his comrades
and who won concessions from
the West by holding out be-
yond the first deadline.Thaci was basically playing
on brinkmanship. I'm not sure
of his talent for politics, but heBy EMMA DALY
in Pristinacertainly did extract as much as
possible," he said. And although
the ethnic Albanians were se-
verely criticised for not signing
at once and demanding a two-
week period for consultations,
Mr Thaci had good reasons
for demanding a delay.What Thaci was in fact fear-
ing in Rambouillet was that any
hasty move might have
inspired bloodshed among Alba-
nians in Kosovo," Mr Gorani
said. This was echoed by Com-
mander Drini, who commands
the rebels south of Pristina."The best [achievement] of the
Albanian delegation was that
they went into Rambouillet
separated and they came out
united," he said last week.Despite their image as hot-
heads, the young KLA com-
manders – the four top men are
30 or under – appear to adopt
a more moderate line than
some of their older supporters
in politics or business abroad.
They are all university gradu-
ates who feel a burden of care
for their people."They carry their responsi-
bilities quite heavily," said one
Western official. "It's as closely
knit a force as you would expect.
They regret every death."That afternoon we had
watched a KLA fighter lay
down his rifle so he could carry
his terrified, elderly mother,
who is paralysed, to a United
Nations car for evacuation from
her village after a Yugoslav
army attack. As the Western
official said, the KLA "was a
grassroots development from a
peasant army".This cohesion might have
been severely tested by the
Rambouillet deal, but the con-
sultation process of the past few
days has apparently brought
most of the doubters aboard.

Two war-weary Albanian fighters walking through the village of Petrovo, held by the Kosovo Liberation Army


 SAAB
Police negotiate
end to hijackBy JOHN LICHFIELD
in Parissaid, only that his movement,
which he also described as a
new religion called l'oréonisme,
should be "recognised".The passenger who lent the
mobile phone to the hijacker –
just before being released –
said that was all was calm
aboard the plane and there
had been no violence.It was unclear whether there
was really a bomb on the plane,
due to land in Paris at 4pm, or
whether the man had any other
form of weapon.One of the first group of pas-
sengers to be released, Jean-
Yves Leheude, described the
hijacker as "silver-haired and
romantic-looking".He said that all had been per-
fectly calm when the aircraft
landed and that most of the
passengers had disembarked
quite normally. "He just insisted
that the passengers in the
first row should remain
behind."

He did not want cash, he

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IN BRIEF

Harare frees pressmen to travel
ZIMBABWE'S HIGH court yesterday allowed two pressmen who alleged they were tortured by the military to travel to Britain for medical treatment. Mark Chavunda, 33, editor of the Standard, and Ray Choto, 37, are charged with publishing a false story that an army coup had tried to overthrow President Robert Mugabe in December.

Blast leaves Lusaka with no water
ZAMBIA'S CAPITAL, Lusaka, a city of three million people, was without running water yesterday after a bomb blast destroyed the main water pipeline, officials said. Residents and officials at Lusaka's water utility said that the taps finally dried up early yesterday when the city's main reservoir emptied after Sunday's explosion.

Journalists apologise for report
A BODY covering Ghana's journalists has apologised for announcing the death of the country's most powerful traditional ruler without his family's permission. The Ghana Journalists' Association announced the death of the king of the Ashantis, Otumfuo Opoku Ware II, aged 80.

Evangelicals' singing sit-in
A GROUP of evangelical Christians occupied an administrative building in Siberia yesterday. An official in Russia's Yakutia province said the group demanded compensation for wood they had provided to local residents, but refused to say what they wanted, rejecting offers of money and breaking off talks to sing and pray.

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Slain for being young and Christian



Police trying to calm a mob wielding swords and spears in Amboi city yesterday. At least 200 have died in recent clashes Jonathan Head/AP

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
in Amboi, Indonesia

IT WAS curiosity that drove Johannes Pattiранe to go to where the bodies had been brought, for at that time he had no idea Marlen had gone missing. It was early yesterday morning, and Johannes was at his office in the town of Amboi when he heard about the deaths, the latest in six weeks of bitter religious conflict. A young man and a young woman – a couple, they said – had been found dumped by the side of a jungle road on the outskirts of town.

"I wondered who it was and I went to have a look," he says. "I couldn't believe it."

Lying in the back of a police car were Marlen Sizanola, Johannes' cousin, and her fiance, Lucas Paloma. Their throats had been cut and their ears severed, but the bodies were not stiff, and the wounds were still bleeding. It was 8.30am.

Marlen was 32 years old and one of the youngest law lecturers at Amboi's Pattimura University. Now, a few feet from where Johannes sits talking in her parents' village home, her students are arriving to see her

effects are obscure, but everyone agrees it began on 19 January, a Tuesday. The most commonly related story tells of an argument between a mini-bus driver – a Christian – and a Muslim passenger. After that everything depends on the religion of the person you are talking to. What is certain is that the rioting which began that day in Amboi town, spread with eerie speed throughout the island, which is only 35 miles long and 10 miles across at its widest point. For nearly a week Amboi was closed to the outside world, as the numbers of reported deaths steadily rose. There was a lull and then the violence flared again in February, and again last weekend. The consensus among local reporters is that more than 200 have died.

During the day, normal life is impossible; and at night, fear guarantees a voluntary curfew. Parties of local people, Muslim and Christian, stop cars at makeshift road blocks. Those of the wrong religion are sent back, or worse. The vigilantes carry pistols, bows and poison-tipped arrows, aluminium poles sharpened to spears, and homemade bombs – a specialty of the islands, whose fishermen use them to stun and collect fish above the coral reefs.

Thousands of people, many of them Muslim immigrants from elsewhere in Indonesia, have fled their homes and jobs to live with relatives on other islands. The frequent, but unpredictable, street disturbances close the island's few roads; shops and businesses are often forced to shut. Economic activity is fitful, and cloves, nutmegs and mace which gave the Spice Islands their name cannot be shifted off the island.

For all the confusion, everyone agrees on one thing: that no blame whatsoever can be attached to members of their own religion. "This is the difference between Christians and Muslims," says Johannes Pattiранe. "Christians turn the other cheek: we only react when we are attacked." But a few miles away there are Muslims saying the same thing, with equal grief and conviction.

On Monday, at least three of them were killed, allegedly by Christian policemen, after a riot provoked by Christians stoning a mosque. It was in retaliation for this incident that Marlen and Lucas were butchered.

Whether peace comes fast or slow, it is hard to imagine that Amboi can ever be the same again. "I'm losing and forgiving too much," says another of Marlen's cousins, Nan Maaita. "I lost my house, and I forgave the men who burned it, and now I have lost my cousin. But that is too much to forgive. Too much. This is enough."

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Albright and China clash over rights

BY TERESA POOLE
in Peking



BLUNT TALK on human rights and irreconcilable views on missile deployment yesterday marked the end of a two-day visit to Peking by the American Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, who nevertheless said that Sino-US relations were strong enough to withstand "even sharp disagreements".

Ms Albright is the most senior US administration official to visit China since Peking launched a crackdown on dissident and sentenced a string of activists to lengthy prison sentences. She said human rights had proved the "most difficult topic" in her meetings with China's leaders. "I made clear that it was very important for there to be a change in the atmosphere, that there had to be an end to the crackdown. There had to be a release of people," she said afterwards.

"Last June our two Presidents agreed to a candid dialogue on human rights. In the last two days we have seen what a candid dialogue looks like. I made clear America's view that a society is more, not less, likely to be stable when citizens have an outlet for the peaceful expression of political views," she said, in reference to the imprisonment of those who had tried to set up the China Democracy Party. But her words brought no concessions from the Chinese side.

Top of Peking's agenda of contentious issues was Washington's plan for a theatre mis-

silence (TMD) system, which might encompass Taiwan. "I replied that, instead of worrying about a decision that has not been made to deploy defensive technologies that do not yet exist, China should focus its energies on the real source of the problem – the proliferation of missiles," said Ms Albright. She called on China to use its influence to encourage restraint by North Korea on missile development, and to develop dialogue with Taiwan.

China views American protestations that TMD would be a defensive system as disingenuous at best. The Foreign Ministry spokesman, Zhu Bangzao, said: "The situation on the Korean peninsula is stable and we oppose the move by some countries to use this situation as an excuse to strengthen military alliances and build up defence capabilities. That is not conducive to peace and stability, and may trigger arms races at various levels."

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'Call me President' says the general



BY ALEX DUVAL SMITH

GENERAL Olusegun Obasanjo, president-elect of Nigeria's future civilian government, has dismissed claims by international observers and his opponent, Olu Falae, of extensive fraud in Saturday's vote.

In an exclusive interview with The Independent, 63-year-old General Obasanjo said: "More than 17 million Nigerians voted for me. If I am regarded as having been installed by the military then those 17 million people must be military."

Earlier Mr Falae, whose alliance was also accused of election fraud, called for a government of national unity. He planned a legal challenge to the result - 62.78 per cent for General Obasanjo against his 37.22 per cent.

General Obasanjo, who was military head of state for three years from 1976, best known internationally for having handed power to a civilian in 1979.

But in a country ruled by juntas for all but 10 of its 39 years of independence, there are fears that he will preside over a "military democracy" overseen by generals. He will be formally installed for his four-year term on May 29.

Throughout his campaign, General Obasanjo was reticent when questioned and his rhetoric, such as it was, won him no admirers in the international media. He even failed to turn up for the televised election debate, allegedly because the questions were not provided in advance.

Yesterday the general, as he is called by his aides, was equally unforthcoming, staring at the floor during answers, responding only in vague terms, and ill-at-ease with the spontaneous nature of interviews.

But he relished being asked how he should be addressed in future. He stood up, wearing a pale blue agbada (traditional robe) and silver embroidered bonnet, and raised his voice: "You can call me President Olusegun Obasanjo or President Chief Olusegun Obasanjo or, of course, President General Olusegun Obasanjo."

He was vague about his priorities and backtracked on a pre-election pledge to withdraw Nigerian troops immediately from intervention force duties in Sierra Leone. "Nige-

ria will always play a part in peace-keeping but we have to see what we can do without straining our own resources," he said.

All day the general received well-wishers at a suite in the Hilton Hotel in the capital, Abuja, including prominent businessmen who had given financial support.

But he faces glaring economic and social problems, extensive corruption and deepening poverty in tandem with a falling oil price.

The general said: "People talk about economic and social problems without going back to basics. The basic problem is political. Unless we deal with political issues, we will not make headway on economic issues."

Apparently referring to regional rivalries and conflicts, he added: "I will stretch out my hands of welcome to all Nigerians, no matter what has happened during the election process, until everyone feels they have a stake and belongs to Nigeria."

"Once this process is complete, it will be all hands on deck to eradicate corruption and for people to feel that justice and equity will be done."

"Then we can address issues like communications, energy, lack of water, education, health and the security of life and property. You can see how politics and issues all hang together," he said.

General Obasanjo has three months to complete the transition process in co-operation with the military head of state, General Abdulsalami Abubakar. Yesterday, the Abubakar government finally announced a constitution would be published, probably this week.

The lack of such a document during the election process has been sharply criti-

cised by local and international observers, led by the former United States president Jimmy Carter.

Mr Carter, who headed a delegation of observers, told Nigerian election officials that fraud was so widespread it was impossible to judge whether the results were accurate, though the United States did congratulate Nigeria on a peaceful election, saying it "broadly reflected the will of the Nigerian people".

Clement Nwankwo, director of the Constitutional Rights Project, an observer group, said: "The publication now of the constitution confirms one of our worst fears - that the military was waiting to see who would win the election before deciding which constitution to give us."

The Constitutional Rights Project, other pro-democracy groups and international ob-

servers released extensive details of election fraud during Saturday's election.

These included a turnout in the southern Bayelsa State of 122.66 per cent when, in fact, the general impression was of scepticism and lack of interest in voting.

The 10,000 local observers reported several cases of polling station officials being led away at gunpoint while their ballot boxes were stuffed.

In Kaduna, 50 children in school uniform were accredited to vote by a teacher.

In Kano, in the north, people were said to be selling their votes for 10 naira (6p) and in the oil-producing Niger delta region, monitors said that 30 minutes after an empty ballot box was placed on a polling table, 600 votes were found inside it.

Leading article, Review, page 3



EPA

ANNE McELVOY



The monarchy has lost no time in riding the wave of devolution

IN THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW PAGE 3

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Bush set to launch bid for president

THE RACE to succeed Bill Clinton as President of the United States started in earnest yesterday, with 18 months still to go until the 2000 election.

George W Bush, the Republican Governor of Texas and son of the former president, was due to announce his first steps towards the White House last night. Mr Bush is front-runner to face Al Gore, Mr Clinton's Vice-President and the most likely Democratic candidate. But Mr Bush must first beat the other Republican candidates.

Mr Bush, not the Democrats.

Pat Buchanan, a journalist and former White House official, also declared himself a candidate yesterday. He has set out his position for years as a protectionist, an isolationist and an opponent of abortion.

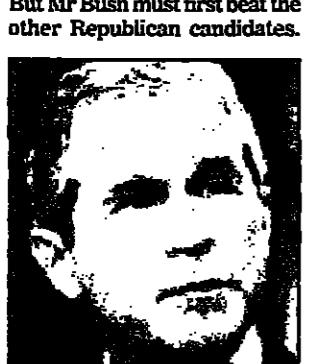
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But the election will largely be about money – the ability of candidates to raise huge amounts, keep a big stack through the primaries and then power into the election race.

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Mr Bush was expected to set up a presidential exploratory committee, the first step towards declaring his candidacy.



George Bush Jr begins his wooing of the press

The Bush camp has tried to damp public speculation about his candidacy, while doing everything it could to make sure the press was aware of his intentions. He called a surprise press conference yesterday after his staff had said he would not discuss his intentions until next week, apparently so he could announce his moves to the press in Texas before the rest of the US.

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But the party is seriously divided. Most of the declared or likely candidates are positioning themselves to the right of him, to win support among the party's grassroots activists, and many are focusing their fire on Mr Bush, not the Democrats.

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Adam Brown demonstrating the decay of pier 25. The marine engineer knows only too well how Manhattan's underside is crumbling

Justin Sutcliffe

Grim tales at the end of the pier

AMERICAN TIMES

NEW YORK

JUTTING OUT forlornly into the Hudson River near the lower end of Manhattan's West Side, pier 25 is not what it used to be. A pier putting business occupies the section nearest the land – deserted on this cold morning – while the rest is condemned. A chicken-wire fence deters humans from roaming out too far.

My guide, Adam Brown, takes no notice, squeezing open a gate in the fence and striding out to the pier's tip. Years ago, Mr Brown used to live on an old steam tug tied up at the pier. It is still there, but now it rests on the river-bottom with only the stack and part of the superstructure visible above the water.

It is a line of business that brings many rewards. Mr Brown is passionate about rivers, the ocean and the marine environment in general. Above water, he is also president of an advocacy group, the Working Waterfront Association, which promotes the renovation of New York's massive waterfront for marine uses. But the diving can be rough also. Mr Brown dives all year, including now when the water around the city is barely above freezing.

It is an umbilical tube for air and a communications line to the people above me but, when I'm down there, I'm really all alone and it's black and murky. It is a bit like sitting in a closed closet with a flashlight and you only have this three-foot cone of light where you can see anything, he says.

Sometimes that cone reveals unpleasant surprises.

Dead pets are quite common.

Mr Brown recalls a dive he

took a few years ago beneath pier 26, next door to this one, when he bumped into something soft. It turned out to be the horribly distended body of a man that for one moment wrapped an arm around his shoulders. "He was so inflated it was if his clothes had been spray-painted on to him."

It was about 10 years ago that Mr Brown first began to notice something else going on beneath the waters around Manhattan. Tiny creatures known as marine borers, which for decades had been absent because of high levels of industrial pollution, were starting to make a comeback. They are called borers for a reason – they like to eat timber. Wooden pil-

ings such as the ones beneath this pier are their favourite.

The borers come in two varieties. One is a crustacean, *Limnoria lignorum* (otherwise known as a gribble), the other a mollusc usually referred to as a shipworm. Their return to New York is an ironic side-product of the city's campaign to clean up both the East and Hudson Rivers. Only last week, authorities announced that local striped bass, banned from dinner tables for the past 23 years because of contamination, are now almost fit again for human consumption.

Now the city is faced with paying millions of dollars to repair the damage. Piers will have to be torn down and, in this case – because it is part of a newly designated West Side park – rebuilt. A large section has already broken off, its concrete surface now subsiding crazily into the choppy waters. Meanwhile, a multi-million-dollar contract will soon go out to tender for initial studies into preventing chunks of FDR Drive from falling into the East River. "For a long time, people just didn't believe us. They had forgotten that borers could exist," Mr Brown explains. "Today, they are all over the place and it's getting worse".

On more than one occasion, he has been forced to close sections of road in New York without warning because of what he has found on their undersides.

"There are areas where they

are driving trucks on top and

driving cars on top where there

was nothing underneath."

Those are the moments Mr Brown confronts the worst of all the dangers of his job – that part of the city might collapse on top of him.

DAVID USBORNE

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Why Bank can feel quietly satisfied

WHEN Tim Holt, director of the Office for National Statistics, apologised yesterday for the fiasco his organisation had made of calculating and revising official figures for average earnings, he would have added an extra, silent message of congratulations to the Bank of England. All users expect official statistics to be accurate and reliable, but it is crucial for the Bank's judgement about interest rates.

The reason is that official figures are the only defence against anecdotal evidence, the heavy artillery used by business lobby groups and industry in their attack on the MPC's decisions. Any industrialist or manufacturing union can reel off job losses here and low pay settlements there. The Bank can only set what it thinks will be the right rate for the whole economy by having the full picture, and the only way to get the full picture is to look at comprehensive, national data based on a wide sample, properly weighted and adjusted for seasonal fluctuations.

When the MPC raised interest rates to their peak of 7.5 per cent in June, the official average earnings figures were the last piece of a jigsaw portraying a generally tight labour market. Although not decisive



OUTLOOK

in themselves, they helped tip the balance of argument in the monetary meeting. But the move was so unpopular with the business lobby that there was general rejoicing – and later fury in Threadneedle Street – when the ONS revised the figures to show average earnings growth slowing rather than accelerating in the spring.

The Bank can now feel quietly satisfied that what looks to have been a very thorough review of the average earnings figures has resulted in a series that looks much more like the original picture before the ONS started fiddling with it.

The context is now wholly different, however. Growth has slowed to

near standstill, the international backdrop is as depressed as ever, and inflation remains near its target. So although pay is rising at an underlying rate of 4.5 per cent, the Bank's tolerance limit, it does not have the automatic implication that interest rates won't fall again.

In fact, the downward trend in earnings, albeit from a higher than expected peak, encouraged the financial markets to be a bit more hopeful yesterday about the possibility of a rate cut. News about economic activity since last month's MPC meeting has been more upbeat. On the other hand, there remains no sign of inflationary pressure.

The complicating factor this month is next week's Budget. The MPC will already know its broad outline so that it can base its judgment on whatever fiscal stance the Chancellor has decided to adopt. The committee might calculate that if it does cut rates, this will be read as a vote of no-confidence in growth prospects. And if it doesn't cut rates, this might be taken as a sign of a loosening of fiscal policy to come. In these circumstances, the only proper course for the MPC is to ignore how its actions might be interpreted, and simply weigh up all

the hard facts – with a bit more confidence in their accuracy after yesterday's review.

Euro weakness

YOU WOULD think that by now Oskar Lafontaine and his deputy at the German finance ministry, Helmut Flasbeck, might have learned their lesson. Every time they open their mouths to berate the European Central Bank for not cutting interest rates fast enough, it only makes all those independently thinking central bankers more determined than ever not to follow their advice.

This is becoming an ever more silly and damaging game of who blinks first. We cannot be seen to do what the politicians tell us, the ECB seems to say, as that would damage our credibility. So we can't cut rates, even if we thought there might be a case for it. So silly has the process become that Mr Flasbeck might be more likely to achieve his desired aim if he were to demand a rate increase than by speaking his mind.

Meanwhile, the euro seems to have been born a sickly infant. As yet it is unclear whether this is more to do with the weakness of the German

and French economies than the likely counter cyclical direction of European and American interest rates. The ECB claims to have no exchange rate target, or indeed to take the exchange rate into account at all in making its interest rate decisions. But plainly currency weakness has become as good an excuse as any for not cutting rates.

Politicians are a devious lot, and there is certainly a degree of "blame management" in whatever Mr Lafontaine has to say about the ECB.

By blaming the ECB, he can to some extent deflect attention from his own policy mistakes. By the same token, it makes a good sense politically to make the ECB a scapegoat for the euro's wider problems. If the euro is a disaster, it won't be the politicians who invented it who are to blame, but the ECB. Even so, it can reasonably be assumed that Messrs Lafontaine and Flasbeck do genuinely want interest rate cuts.

So how can the ECB be persuaded to do its duty? One possibility is that politicians have chosen too simplistic a target. A big problem with the ECB as presently constituted is that it has no proper inflation target. The main instrument for determining policy is monetary tar-

getting, commensurate with the general target of keeping inflation below 2 per cent. There is little guidance as to what this means, though it is generally assumed the ECB would pursue price deflation as a policy objective. Even so, the assumed range of 0 to 2 per cent creates a ready zone of inactivity, and potential for exactly the sort of paralysis the ECB now seems to be suffering from.

By contrast, the Bank of England's inflation target is a symmetrical one. It is as much of an offence to overshoot on the downside as on the upside. This seems such an eminently sensible approach to reconciling the policy aim of full employment with that of low inflation that it is amazing our European partners haven't yet seen fit to copy it.

Pensions

FOR PEOPLE

WHO HAVE BEEN SAVING

FOR THEIR PENSION WITH NORWICH UNION

YESTERDAY'S CONFIRMATION

THAT IT IS SETTING ASIDE £750M TO PAY FOR ANNUITY RATES

WHICH ARE BEING GUARANTEED

FOR 20 YEARS

IS A MAJOR STEP FORWARD

FOR THE FUTURE

OF PENSION SAVINGS

IN THE UK

BY OUR CITY STAFF

INFORMA

THE EXHIBITIONS

AND PUBLICATIONS

GROUP THAT WAS

CREATED IN DECEMBER BY THE MERGER OF LLP AND IBC, YES-
TERDAY ADDED AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST MARITIME NEWSPAPER, THE DAILY COMMERCIAL NEWS, TO ITS STAKE.

INFORMA

IS BUYING THE TITLE

FOR £510M

(£6.2m)

FROM APN

NEWS & MEDIA

THE AUSTRALIAN

MEDIA GROUP

IN WHICH IN-

DEPENDENT

NEWSPAPERS, OWNER OF THE INDEPENDENT, HAS A 33 PER CENT STAKE.

INFORMA

PLANS TO COMBINE

THE DAILY COMMERCIAL NEWS,

WHICH WAS SET UP IN 1891, WITH

ITS OWN TITLE,

LLOYD'S LIST AUSTRALIAN WEEKLY.

FROM APRIL, A

COMBINED PAPER

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THE TITLE HAS 4,000

SUBSCRIBERS

AND LAST YEAR MADE A PRE-TAX PROFIT OF £590,000 ON TURNOVER OF £4.5M.

THE NEWS EMERGED AS APN

REPORTED A 16 PER CENT INCREASE

IN PRE-ABNORMAL NET PROFIT

AFTER TAX AND MINORITIES TO £85.3M FOR THE YEAR TO LAST DECEMBER, THE SIXTH YEAR OF GROWTH SINCE THE COMPANY WAS FLADED IN 1992.

THE RISE WAS DRIVEN BY A 15

PER CENT INCREASE IN OPERATING

PROFITS FROM THE BROADCASTING

DIVISION AND A 10 PER CENT PROFIT

FROM ITS OUTDOOR ADVERTISING

UNIT, WHICH WAS

HELPED BY THE ACCELERATING

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Pat Robertson: The bank will be run at arm's length from the controversial evangelist's other businesses

Independent group in Australian sale

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BoS links with US evangelist in telephone banking deal

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

ANK OF SCOTLAND is joining forces with the flamboyant American television evangelist Pat Robertson to launch a new telephone banking venture in the United States.

The operation, to be called the sw Foundation Bank, is modelled on Sainsbury's Bank, the joint venture between Bank of Scotland and the supermarket chain that pioneered branchless banking in the UK in 1997.

Bank of Scotland will be the majority shareholder in the new venture and provide the know-how, while sub-contracting the operation of the call centre and its office to Marshall & Ilsley, US financial services group based in Wisconsin.

Applications for regulatory approval were filed with the American authorities yesterday.

As with Sainsbury's Bank, the

venture will start by offering high-interest deposits before expanding into other products.

Pat Robertson is a controversial figure in the US. A darling of the Christian right, he ran unsuccessfully for president in 1988 on an unashamedly right-wing programme.

He is best known for having founded the Christian Broadcasting Network, a religious television channel that he sold to Rupert Murdoch for \$1.5bn in 1997.

Mr Burt said the idea for the venture had come from Bill Hendry, who heads up Bank of Scotland's existing US operations and who first raised the idea with the American TV evangelist a year ago.

Mr Burt said the bank would be managed at arm's length

from Dr Robertson's other business activities, adding that it would be improper to mix what is a purely commercial venture with Dr Robertson's "charitable and religious works".

"He has a tremendous track record as a successful entrepreneur," Mr Burt said.

Dr Robertson, whose forebears left Scotland in 1695 – the same year Bank of Scotland was founded by a decree of the Scottish Parliament – said yesterday: "The objective is to provide the American consumer with a bank that is committed to service and value. Bank of Scotland brings unparalleled experience of service-oriented banking combined with a real understanding of the power of branding and marketing in start-up banking operations."

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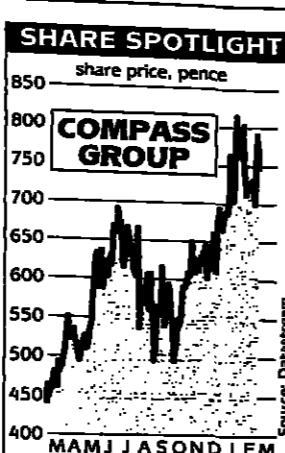
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Compass sell-off helps point FTSE downhill

MARKET REPORT



FRANCESCO GUERRERA



EXPECT SOME activity in Bula Resources after a board shakeup announced after the market closed.

Albert Reynolds, the former Irish prime minister, is the new chairman of the oil exploration company, unchanged at 1p yesterday. Tony Peart, a Lasmo veteran, becomes managing director. The high-profile appointments come with a £1.75m placing at 1p. Funds will be used to back ventures in Libya and Iraq.

vert if the stock rises. "It's a great instrument for those who are worried about Compass valuation. If the shares take off they can convert, but if they fall, they stay with the bond," one insider said.

The appearance of the bond prompted several investors and hedge funds to sell Compass and buy the bond. The switch left the stock one of the great outperformers of recent times, more than 44.5p lower at 74.5p in a hefty volume of nearly 12m shares.

Compass was saved the embarrassment of the FTSE 100 wooden spoon by Rentokil Initial. The hygiene group, down 48p to 400.75p, cleaned

up as the worst-performing blue chip after missing out on its 20 per cent earnings growth target for the first time in 15 years. Brokers rushed to downgrade 1999 profits by some £15m on worries that Rentokil's soaring success is finally coming to an end.

The catering and cleaning tribulations were a rare spot of excitement in a dull day. The FTSE 100 index closed a mere 0.4 ahead at 6,061.3 in thin volume as a number of big hitters stuck to the sidelines ahead of today's interest rate decision.

Allied Domecq was in good spirits on renewed talk of a merger of its drinks and pubs subsidiaries. The stock firmed 4p up to 477p, as analysts highlighted the takeover attraction of the two components and said that a split Allied is worth around 560p.

Allied's booze brands, which include Beefeater gin and Teacher's scotch, will be a great catch for the Canadian group Seagram or the US rum giant Bacardi. The underperforming pubs could be sold to a UK brewer.

Insurers were in good form, buoyed by a positive general

insurance result from Norwich Union, up 5p to 451.75p. CGU latched on to its rival's good news and soared 43p to 928p. A Goldman Sachs "outperform" recommendation also helped Royal & Sun jumped on the bandwagon and finished up 21.75p to 533.25p.

GEC continued to live off Monday's purchase of the US telecom equipment company Tellnet, and put on 20p to 536p. GUS, the catalogue retailer which owns Argos, ordered a 26p advance to 822p as Merrill Lynch set a 875p price target. Marks & Spencer was still reeling from Monday's gloomy note from WestLB and lost 16.25p to 395p.

The undercard was a much happier place, with the recent bid fever showing no sign of abating. A string of good results also helped and the FTSE 250 rose 18.9 to 5,277.3, the highest since the beginning of the year. The Small Cap market ended 2.3 lower at 2,276.3.

British Land developed a 21p rise to 529.5p. The talk is that the float of Canary Wharf could prompt the property group to spin off its Broadgate complex in the City of London. Land Securities followed suit with a 14p rise to 837.5p, and MPEC, up 10p to 480p, completed its half-trick.

Housebuilders were looking solid thanks to Redrow's optimism on the much-hated planning delays. Beazer led the pack with a 13p increase to 186.5p, Wilson Bowden was 40p higher to 823.5p, Barratt grew 10.5p to 273.5p, while Wimpey, the biggest of the lot, built an 8.5p rise to 142.5p.

In a related sector, Brandon Hire, the equipment group, climbed 11p to 99.5p. Rival Heward Stuart is believed to have had a look.

Weir, the Scottish pump maker, was left high and dry after its refurbished US suitor Flowserve refused to table another offer. The stock fell 2.5p to 242.5p as the prospect of a 400p-a-share bid disappeared.

The bid target First Choice suffered a 2.5p fall to 171.5p on profit-taking after Monday's spike. The hyperactive Philips & Drew declared a 11 per cent stake in the stalled travel group. Express Dairies went off 5.5p to 115.5p on talk

of a takeover. The stock is well below GET's asset value of 61p.

Provend, a drinks machine-maker, enjoyed a 31p rise to 148.5p after toasting a bid approach.

Takeover rumours were swirling around the money broker Trio, up 1.5p to 10.75p, after Monday's decision by a major shareholder to sell its stake.

CCI, a former clay pigeon shooting outfit, completed its reverse takeover of the Xavier computer group, unchanged at 1p. From today, the new Aim-traded company will be called XKO.

SEAG VOLUME: 964.8M
SEAG TRADES: 76,104
GILTS INDEX: 112.97 +0.07

Liffe Financial Futures						
Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Ext floor volume	Open interest	
Long-life	Mar'99	115.73	115.95	115.35	3360.00	15286.00
5% Gilt	Mar'99	108.16	108.34	108.00	108.00	63.00
German Bond	Mar'99	113.90	114.00	113.80	100.00	100.00
British Bond	Mar'99	112.32	112.50	111.85	25047.00	36727.00
Japan Govt Bid	Mar'99	132.03	132.10	131.85	100.00	100.00
3% Sterling	Mar'99	94.67	94.75	94.50	38673.00	129709.00
5% Sterling	Mar'99	94.87	94.92	94.75	62287.00	193811.00
5% Gilt	Mar'99	96.89	96.95	96.85	33979.00	163787.00
5% Gilt	Apr'99	96.93	96.95	96.90	100.00	100.00
5% Gilt	Jun'99	96.94	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Aug'99	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Oct'99	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Dec'99	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Mar'00	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	May'00	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Jul'00	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Sep'00	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Nov'00	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Jan'01	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Mar'01	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	May'01	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Jul'01	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Sep'01	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Nov'01	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Jan'02	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Mar'02	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	May'02	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Jul'02	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Sep'02	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Nov'02	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Jan'03	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Mar'03	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	May'03	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Jul'03	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Sep'03	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Nov'03	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Jan'04	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Mar'04	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	May'04	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Jul'04	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Sep'04	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Nov'04	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Jan'05	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Mar'05	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	May'05	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Jul'05	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Sep'05	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
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5% Gilt	Nov'06	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Jan'07	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Mar'07	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	May'07	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Jul'07	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Sep'07	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Nov'07	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Jan'08	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	Mar'08	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00
5% Gilt	May'08	96.95	96.95	96.92	57521.00	144160.00

Festival roar awaits the 'new Arkle'

Willie Mullins, the Irish trainer, has a strong hand for the Cheltenham Festival and Gold Cup hope Florida Pearl is his ace. By Richard Edmondson

BEFORE THE 1977 Derby, they studded The Minstrel's ears with cotton wool to prevent him from getting frightened by the Epsom cacophony. It worked. He won.

Another Irish horse, Florida Pearl, may need to be fitted with balaclava and hard hat if he is not to disappear over the horizon at the Cheltenham Festival in two weeks' time. Epsom was a whisper compared to the noise which will be generated at the foot of Cleeve Hill when the sainted Florida Pearl runs in the Gold Cup.

It does not take much to ignite the Irish dream for the Festival, the thought that they have an animal with which to beat their historical antagonists. Many have proved to be false dawns, but perhaps the most memorable was the real dawn, Dawn Run, who collected the Blue Riband in 1986. The chain of coincidence established is that she was trained Paddy Mullins, whose son Willie will now massage Florida Pearl before he leaps from his corner.

Willie recalls well that day 13 years ago when "the mare" emerged victorious. He cannot actually claim to have seen it, however. "I remember it vividly," he says. "I thought she was beaten after jumping the last and I turned away from the stands and I was already think-

ing about the next year." Then came a tremor, and a strange holl. "All of a sudden, all I could hear was this great shouting," he says. "When I looked round, the air was full of hats. The whole place was just erupting. I knew that could only mean one result."

It is now not one but two results which are required when the Irish come swarming into the Cotswolds. Florida Pearl will be weighed down greatly by money and expectation enough as it is, but if Istabraq also triumphs in the Champion Hurdle for Aidan O'Brien on the opening day the satchels will be groaning with paper content. If both win there will not be a dry glass in the house.

"When you're training a horse with this sort of ability it's a lot easier, and I'm sure Aidan will agree with that," Mullins says. "Worrying won't make him faster so all we can do is get him fit on the day and if everything goes right it will take a good horse to beat either one. It would be a bigger burden if I didn't have a horse like this one."

The big horse carries the red and white colours of Mrs Violet O'Leary, the wife of the former Irish rugby international, Archie O'Leary. Archie, who has twice skippered a boat in the Irish Admiral's Cup team, has turned down offers of over

£300,000 for his breathing property. He acknowledges this is the chance. O'Leary has been through the wonder of top class sport but he nevertheless admits he dreams about Florida Pearl. He is not the only one.

Willie Mullins, though,

knows all too well where dreams can terminate. He trains on a farm in Closutton, about four miles from his father at Donings in the Leighlinbridge area of Co Carlow. Just up the road is a graveyard. At 42, Mullins Jnr is now in the vanguard of Ireland's trainers and this may well be the most fruitful Festival of a career that has been punctuated by glorious victories both in and out of the saddle.

Alexander Punkt will contest a bumper in which his trainer has a surreal tradition. He has scooped the last three. Alexander Banquet (Royal & SunAlliance Novices' Hurdle) and Wither Or Which (Supreme Novices') will now attempt to continue their unbroken Cheltenham records, but it is the horse they sandwiched as the Festival bumper winner who the most attention.

Florida Pearl has a big head with a big stripe and, if he was vain, the gelding might inquire if his powerful bottom looked big in his hide. When he enters the arena it is hard to believe that this can be a nimble jumper.

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Florida Pearl has a big head with a

European Cup quarter-final: Italian clubs have usually had the upper hand on some pulsating nights of action

History not on United's side

BY GUY HODGSON

EVEN BERTI VOGTS, the erstwhile manager of Germany, has been making optimistic sounds about Manchester United's chances of winning the European Cup this season and the city itself is electric with optimistic anticipation, but a note of caution ought to be sounded.

United internationale tonight and precedent does not coincide with the confident noises. They have won the Champions and the Cup-Winners' Cups and have been playing in Europe for more than 40 years, but not once have they prevailed in a two-legged tie against an Italian side.

Four times United have gone out to Italian clubs and even in their encounters with Juventus in the Champions League in 1986 and 1997 they would have lost had the normal knock-out rules applied. Spaghetti Junction, in their case, has led to an exit.

Where United have failed, others have succeeded although the balance remains in the Latin's favour. There have been exciting Anglo-Italian nights and one, Heysel, so dreadful football recollect in shame.

To dwell on the positive, here are memorable ties from the five decades of European club competition when England's finest have met Italy's with mixed results.

1958

European Cup semi-final
Manchester Utd 2 Milan 1
Milan 4 Manchester Utd 0
(Milan won 5-2 on aggregate)



Clockwise (from top left): Alan Smith scores Arsenal's winner against Parma in the 1994 Cup-Winners' Cup final; Juventus' Claudio Gentile has the upper hand on the pitch; Manchester United's Dennis Viollet scores against Milan in the 1958 European Cup semi-final; Ian St John nets Liverpool's third against Inter in the 1965 European Cup semi-final; Tottenham's Alan Gilzean challenges Milan's Fabio Cudicini in the 1972 UEFA Cup semi-final; Alan Smith scores Arsenal's winner against Parma in the 1994 Cup-Winners' Cup final. Allsport/Hulton Getty/Mirror/Toppan Picturepoint

1965

European Cup semi-final
Liverpool 3 Internazionale 1
Internazionale 3 Liverpool 0
(Internazionale won 4-3 on aggregate)

Five days after United had lost the FA Cup final to Bolton, three months after Munich and the football world could not have done more for the club. Apart from England and Milan, that is.

With insensitivity that beggars belief even at a distance of 40 years, England insisted Bobby Charlton went on a pre-World Cup tour and missed out on a semi-final that had been gained by the last act of the team destroyed in the crash. With him United might have done enough in the first leg, without him there was little hope.

"I think we had run out of emotional steam," recalled Bill Foulkes, a United defender for 21 years, but there was still enough there for Ernie Taylor to win the first match with a penalty 11 minutes from time after Dennis Viollet had been fouled by a future Italian manager, Cesare Maldini.

"I have never seen a crowd set alight with the flame of victory as this Old Trafford," Terence Elliott of the *Daily Express* wrote, but resentment also burned in the Milan players who disliked United's robust tackling and the award of what they judged an unfair penalty.

The price was paid in Milan, where they were bombarded with vegetables thrown from the crowd. "I remember being hit by cabbages and the biggest bunch of carrots I've ever seen," Foulkes said. "They hurt, too."

So did the tackles, and United were brushed aside by a combination of brute force, a lenient referee and the brilliance of Milan's £75,000 then an astonishing sum Uruguayan centre-forward Schiaffino, who scored twice.

"It was a terrible experience," Foulkes said. "Milan had a good team and they crushed us in the second half. Most of us were glad in the end to settle for 4-0."

free-kick and when the ball went straight into the net he gave a goal. The second came after the ball had been kicked out of Tommy Lawrence's hands. The third goal was fair enough, but what a way to win a match."

Shankly described the second leg as "a war" and one that left the defeated army bitter that they had been cheated. The first match though was one of the great Anfield nights.

Liverpool had won at Wembley on the Saturday and Shankly, never one to miss out on propaganda, got the injured Gerry Byrne and Gordon Milne to parade the FA Cup round the ground as Inter, the world and European champions, took the field.

That whipped up an already excited 54,000 crowd who within 11 minutes saw Roger Hunt score and Mazzola equalise. Ian Callaghan restored the lead and Ian St John made it a two-goal margin so that by the end the Kop was singing "Oh Inter, one, two, three. Go back to Italy" to the tune of "Santa Lucia".

The smiles of that night soon ended in the San Siro. A church bell tolled opposite the Liverpool hotel disturbing the players' sleep and the game itself had a horrible atmosphere with rockets raining down on the visitors.

"As for the referee," the Liverpool captain, Ron Yeats, recalled, "he signalled an indirect

prove an inspired decision. The first leg has gone down in north London legend as Steve Perryman's match. He would go on to make 655 League appearances for Spurs and was still playing for the club 14 years later; but it was for this game, at the age of 20, that he is fondly remembered.

Milan had taken the lead through Benetti on the counter and Tottenham's attack, understandably given the hard labour, was weary and predictable. Then Perryman struck with an opportunist shot from the edge of the penalty area.

At 1-1 and time running out

the result was still favourable to Milan, but Perryman would strike again even more extravagantly. Mullery's corner was cleared, but he caught the ball on the bounce and from 35 yards volleyed into the far corner.

At the San Siro the tie was put further out of reach of the Italians within seven minutes. Perryman made to shoot but passed instead to Mullery, whose effort on the run curved high round the Milan goalkeeper. It would prove the decisive goal.

"You played a real team game," Eddie Bailey, Nicholson's assistant, shouted with delight as the players returned to the dressing-room. "That's great," Martin Peters replied

before turning to his rarely satisfied manager: "Now I want to hear Bill say the same."

The board had promised the players' wives, who had not been in Milan, they would definitely travel for the two-legged final and they kept their word.

They went to Wolverhampton.

Alan Davies, who would tragically commit suicide in the Nineties, equalised 10 minutes before half-time and when Ian Wright, who scored 34 goals that season, had to miss the Copenhagen final along with John Jensen, David Hillier and Martin Keown, their prospects against the holders and overwhelming favourites were not promising.

The Parma team looked formidable then but subsequent familiarity had added to their lustre because the Italian side that night included Gianfranco Zola, Faustino Asprilla and Tomas Brolin. Deprived of his leading scorer and his ball-winning grafters, Graham adopted a 4-4-2 formation with splendidly stoic results.

Zola hit a post in an early Italian flurry but once this storm had been weathered Arsenal calmly wrested control and took the lead after 20 minutes. Alan Smith, the lone striker pounced on an extravagant failed attempt at an overhead clearance by Lorenzo Minetti and ran on to shoot past Luca Brolin via the post.

The Italians withdrew from the game, their principal midfielder, with 20 minutes remaining the battle had been won. "Tactically and technically we did not function," Nevio Scala, the Parma manager, said. "But I still think we'd have a full goal for the two legs we'd have been in the final."

"I could only say to the lads run your guts out and fight for every ball but it might just happen for us," remembers Ron Atkinson, then the United manager, and that looked even less likely when Paulo Rossi got a deducted goal after a quarter of an hour.

John Davies will play for Wales in Saturday's encounter with France in Paris. An arm injury may eject Scotland's captain Gary Armstrong, from the Italy game at Murrayfield.

Wales' Tetley's Bitter Cup semi-final with Gloucester on Saturday 4 April.

IRELAND (v England, Five Nations, Cardiff, 11 March) - Clive Woodward, the national coach, to shine his selectorial torch in the direction of the back row.

Martin Corry, a titan for Leicester this season, has the right physical equipment to confront the Irish No 8. The most imaginative solution would be to restore the equally powerful Richard Hill to his open-side role, run Lawrence Dallaglio on the blind side and use Neil Back as a 25-minute "impact" player once the game has broken up a little.

Woodward is unlikely to do any such thing. He has been concentrating on the choices at full-back and scrum-half if he picks on form; he will recall both Matt Perry and Kyran Bracken.

Perry is a magnificent defensive full-back - witness his performance against the Spring-

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of action
Dynamo
set real
test for
Boshack

MARK BURTON

BOSHACK'S back, parent Bologna, however, will have to wait when they face Lyon in tonight's Cup quarter-final. During his first 17 years with the club he was at the heart of their 31 matches.

He may bring back the Portuguese Fernando Boshack, a former player who was a commanding leader when he was at the club. He was very difficult to defend, Boshack said. In the session on Monday he indicated that he would like to make two changes to the team that beat Real Madrid 3-2 defeat at Real Madrid on Saturday. Jamie Carragher is expected to make way for a player while another will be brought in to mean that the likes of Sanchis or Fernando will come into the centre of defence.

Dynamo are set for their penultimate away game, the final home game, suffered by teams from the former Soviet Union after their 1-0 win last night. In last season's European Cup, Dynamo were the most impressive when facing Juventus in the quarter-final, then they had been at the end of the stage. This year to complete the last of match practice, Dynamo have been training in Portugal, where they have been training for several weeks and playing a number of friendlies.

In contrast to the last two individuals of Real, Dynamo's strength is teamwork, with the Ukrainian international, 27-year-old Serhiy Rebrov, and the 26-year-old Shvedchenko as focal points.

Bosnian born, signs up and pedigree tell the story. Boshack's all-German quartet between Reverb, Voss and Ketteler will be added. Hayon warmed up in his first game at the Olympic stadium with a mark of 10.0m, while the 12-year-old shot putter played Bayer Leverkusen at the top of the Bundesliga.

The Boshack, who was three straight European titles from 1973 to 1976, will be strong as ever. The 36-year-old master, the last of the German track and field stars to compete in the 1976 Olympic Games, has been a coach for 12 years and their success has been replicated in their coaching. They have won 10 titles under Boshack, including the 1988 European Championships and the 1992 Olympic Games.

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DAVID O'LEARY is poised to sign a new five-year contract with Leeds United and he has set his sights on the Yorkshire club becoming a force to rule Manchester United, Chelsea and Arsenal.

O'Leary said that the Leeds chairman, Peter Ridsdale, had offered him the new deal last week and insisted: "I would love to stay and there are no problems with signing the contract from my point of view."

It will earn the former

Republic of Ireland player a pay increase as a reward for steering Leeds into the top four of the Premiership and in developing youngsters such as Jonathan Woodgate and Alan Smith.

Now O'Leary is looking on Ridsdale and the board of directors giving him the necessary funds to bring in the players he feels are required to push Leeds onto the next rung of the ladder and be a League-challenging force.

"When I took over I tore up

my old contract and had a pay rise, but the agreement was that I was working on the basis of having the two and a half years to go of my old deal. The club wanted to see what I could do. Now they want me to take the club on for the next five years and I am delighted," O'Leary said.

O'Leary's side gave another demonstration of their potential when they won 2-1 at Leicester on Monday, but he knows there is still much work to be done be-

fore the club can claim to be part of the elite. "The aim is to be able to challenge for the League over the next few years. There is quality in the current squad, but we are not in that position yet," O'Leary said.

"I want to buy quality, the people who will take us on for the next few years and get us up there in terms of squad quality. Hopefully I will get the backing to do that. Only time will tell on that issue."

Meanwhile, Leeds are to put

forward detailed plans for the development of their Elland Road stadium after the Government gave the go-ahead to the club's expansion plan.

David Batty made his comeback for Leeds in a reserve match at Derby last night after three months on the sidelines with a rib injury. Batty, a £4.5m signing from Newcastle, was taken off in the first half of his second Leeds debut against Coventry in December and has been out of action since.

THE FORMER England coach Terry Venables has ruled out a return to the job once Kevin Keegan's four-match reign comes to an end in June.

Speaking for the Football Association, Noel White said last week: "We will look at certain names put before us and Terry will almost certainly be among those."

But Venables has smushed that olive branch from the man

viewed as one of the key men

behind his departure from the post in 1996.

Venables said: "It's too late now. I am no longer interested in the job. I think the FA would have let Keegan have anything to take the job - just as long as it wasn't me."

"I've spoken to anybody

at the FA about it. They didn't

ask me if I wanted it in the be-

ginning. If they had, I would

have said yes. But I'm not in-

terested now."

IOC disputes accusation of 'flourishing' corruption

A SENIOR official from the International Olympic Committee yesterday disputed an American ethics panel's contention that the committee fostered a "culture of improper gift giving" that led to corruption in the bidding process for the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Games.

The US Olympic Committee panel levelled most of the blame for the Salt Lake City vote-buying controversy at the IOC. The report said the conduct "tolerated" by the IOC is potentially illegal and inevitably corruptive. It also suggested leaders ignored corruption that was "flourishing". The report accused the IOC of creating the atmosphere responsible for the improper inducements, which have seen nine IOC members either sacked or resign.

However, Kevan Gosper, an IOC executive board member from Australia, said the report

ATHLETICS

US INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIP AND HEAT CHAMPIONSHIP (Continued from page 1)

11 Harden H 6.40c; 2 M Greene 6.49; 3 B Drummond 6.51; 200m: 1 T Griffin 20.32; 2 K Little 20.41; 3 T Jackson 20.50; 400m: 1 A Jackson 45.50; 2 M Gammie 45.60; 3 D Minor 46.07; 800m: 1 R Robinson 1min 48.60c; 2 R Kenah 1:48.65; 3 B Woodward 1:49.00; 1500m: 1 R Hedges 4:04.42; 2 D Koenigsmann 4:04.42; 3 R Boulet 4:05.46; 3,000m: 1 A Goucher 7:46.06; 2 S Holmes 7:50.38; 3 B Bannister 7:51.00; 5000m: 1 R Jackson 13:36; 2 D Ross 7:44; 3 L Wade 7:59; High jump: 1 H Patterson 2.30m; 2 S Smith 2.30; 3 C Austin 2.21; Pole vault: 1 S Jackson 4.10m; 2 N Hynd 3.85; 3 L Johnson 3.60; Shot put: 1 A Bloom 20.82m; 2 C J Hunter 20.61; 3 J Godin 20.55; Discus: 1 S Jackson 20.04; 2 S Jackson 19.80; 3 D Pope 59.45; Women: 60m: 1 G Devens 7.04; 2 L Miller 7.15; 3 C Taylor 7.17; 400m: 1 B Bannister 53.50; 2 S Holmes 53.52; 3 L Jackson 53.54; 400m: 1 J Jackson 51.97; 2 S Porter 52.45; 3 M Collins 52.48; 800m: 1 M Vallow 2:02.24; 2 S Jackson 2:02.25; 3 L Jackson 2:02.24; 1500m: 1 S Jackson 4:13.95; 2 D Marshall 4:17.51; 3 A Harvey 4:17.95; 5000m: 1 S Jackson 15:40; 2 R Kenah 15:40; 3 S Jackson 15:40; 400m: 1 M Morrison 7.85; 2 D Cidrey 8.01; 3 A King 8.03; High jump: 1 Water 1.96; 2 A Acuff 1.97; 3 K Chidlow 1.90.

BASKETBALL

NBA: New Jersey 99 Boston 97; Philadelphia 104; Washington 91; Charlotte 91; Toronto 88; New York 85; Cleveland 97; Orlando 76; Atlanta 67; Milwaukee 79; Phoenix 91; Seattle 105; Sacramento 102.

EUROPEAN CUP: Eighth finals, first leg: EFC Pilsen (Czechoslovakia) 73 CSKA Moscow 58.

BOWLS

WOMEN'S ALL-ENGLAND INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS (Exeter): Avon Cosmetics Champion of Champions finalist: Shazia Hali (Church Gresley) bt P Bell (Exeter); 2nd: C Jackson (Exeter) bt J London (London). Final: 21-15. Pairs final: B Vincent and A Bunciani (Exeter) bt C Smith and S Fording (Macclesfield). 3rd: C Jackson and N Jackson (Warrington) bt J Burgess and T Burgess (Wellingborough) 33-15; 1. Tunn and B Brown (Cochester) 21-19; N Craig and A Lanne (Eldon) 21-19; L Smith and H Griffiths (King George) 21-17; G Jackson and J Moxon (Cotteridge) 21-15. Pairs final: B Vincent and A Bunciani (Exeter) bt C Smith and S Fording (Macclesfield). 3rd: C Jackson and N Jackson (Warrington) bt J Burgess and T Burgess (Wellingborough) 33-15; 1. Tunn and B Brown (Cochester) 21-19; N Craig and A Lanne (Eldon) 21-19; L Smith and H Griffiths (King George) 21-17; G Jackson and J Moxon (Cotteridge) 21-15. 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SPORT

BAULCH, THE NEW GOLDEN BOY P21 • HILL'S UNFINISHED BUSINESS P20



European Cup: United manager stresses the importance of not conceding an away goal against Internazionale

Ferguson's case for the defence

THE TIMING of Diego Simeone's admission yesterday that he had feigned injury to get David Beckham sent off during last summer's World Cup finals was not, it can be safely assumed, coincidental.

Simeone's Internazionale team face Beckham's Manchester United at Old Trafford tonight in the first leg of their European Cup quarter-final and the Italian side have identified the England midfield player as a key to the outcome. Even the least cynical of observers would question the motives for Simeone's admission, which was published in the Italian press yesterday.

Tonight's match sees the two players meet again on the field for the first time since England's World Cup second round match last summer against Argentina in St Etienne, when Beckham flicked out a foot at Simeone, who collapsed to the ground. Beckham was dismissed, England went on to lose the game on penalties and the United player has since been pilloried by opposing supporters.

That is an enormous amount of derision and Beckham, who has been reluctant to discuss his dismissal, would not be human if St Etienne had not crossed his mind even before Simeone's comments. Now it looks certain to be at the forefront.

Alex Ferguson, who has his own opinion as to why Simeone should suddenly confess now, was anxious yesterday to play down the matter: "We'll do our talking on the pitch," the United

BY GUY HODGSON

ed manager said. "We'll just play the game and not get involved in this. The referee is there to sort out Simeone on the field."

Nevertheless Ferguson could have done without this distraction before his team's most important game of the season to date. He has refused to get involved in the "will he, won't he?" debate that has surrounded whether Ronaldo will play tonight and had hoped

RED DEVILS AGAINST THE ITALIANS

Record of matches between Manchester United and Internazionale
31 July 1996
Inter 3 (Carbone, Branca 2) Man Utd 0
13 August 1996
Man Utd 0 Inter 1 (Zamorano)
27 July 1997
Inter 1 (G. Neville 0g) Man Utd 1 (Burt)
30 July 1997
Man Utd 1 (Clegg) Inter 1 (Ganz)
(all friendlies)

Record against other Italian clubs
1995-97 - Champions League
Juventus (a), lost 1-0
Juventus (h), lost 0-1
1993-94 - Cup-Winners' Cup semi-final
Juventus (h), 1st leg - drew 1-1 (Davies).
Juventus (a), 2nd leg - lost 1-2 (White).
1992-93 - UEFA Cup semi-final
Juventus (h), 1st leg - won 1-0 (Hill).
Juventus (a), 2nd leg - lost 3-0. Lost 1-3 on aggregate.

1991-92 - European Cup semi-final
Milan (h), 1st leg - lost 0-2
Milan (a), 2nd leg - won 1-0 (Charlton).
Lost 1-3 on aggregate.

1997-98 - European Cup semi-final
Milan (h), 1st leg - won 2-1 (Mollet, E. Bay, 2 goals).
Milan (a), 2nd leg - lost 0-4. Lost 2-5 on aggregate.

nothing else would divert attention from the task ahead.

That, he stressed yesterday, was not to concede an away goal - doing so proved terminal against Monaco at the same stage of the European Cup last season - and not to be taken in by reports emanating from Italy of Inter's weaknesses with or without Ronaldo.

Inter are currently sixth in their domestic league, 13 points behind the leaders, Lazio. Despite a forward line that in-

anything away and they man-

motivated for that. It's their only chance of an honour. Some clubs can plan to go for one trophy and forget everything else."

Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole's contest with the parsimonious Inter back three will probably decide tonight's first leg, although a more down to earth factor might be just as influential. The pitch, which has been relaid once and was patched up last month, resembled Old Trafford cricket ground yesterday with covers to protect the more vulnerable areas from the constant tempesting rain. It was a futile effort.

With more rain forecast for

Manchester today it is likely to be more a mud heap than a bowing green and certainly will not be a surface on which anyone would gamble suspect fitness. Ronaldo, for example.

Inter did not bring the Brazilian on the plane with them yesterday but Ferguson was not buying that as final confirmation of his non-availability. He recalled that Jürgen Kohler did not travel with Borussia Dortmund two seasons ago and still played at Old Trafford, courtesy of a private jet.

"I'm not convinced," Ferguson said. "When Italians tell me it's pasta I check under the sauce to see if it is. They are masters of the smokescreen. They come out with 'the English are so strong, we're terrible in the air; we can't do this we can't do that'. Then they beat you 3-0."

"I'll wait to see their team. I ask this question: Why did Ronaldo play in a practice match last Friday?"

Cagy, suspicious, but the United manager is purring that his side are as well prepared as they could be. The acquisition of Yorke and Jaap Stam has strengthened a team which was good enough to reach Europe's last eight last season and he is reinforced by the fitness of Ryan Giggs and Roy Keane, who were both missing against Monaco.

"We have everyone fit and in the last two or three years we have not had that privilege," he said. "The team is playing well enough, the spirit's good so the recipe is there all right. I don't think we could be more pleased."

A 3-0 win tonight would challenge that assertion.

Lessons of history, page 24

TONIGHT'S PROBABLE TEAMS

KICK-OFF 7.45 (ITV)

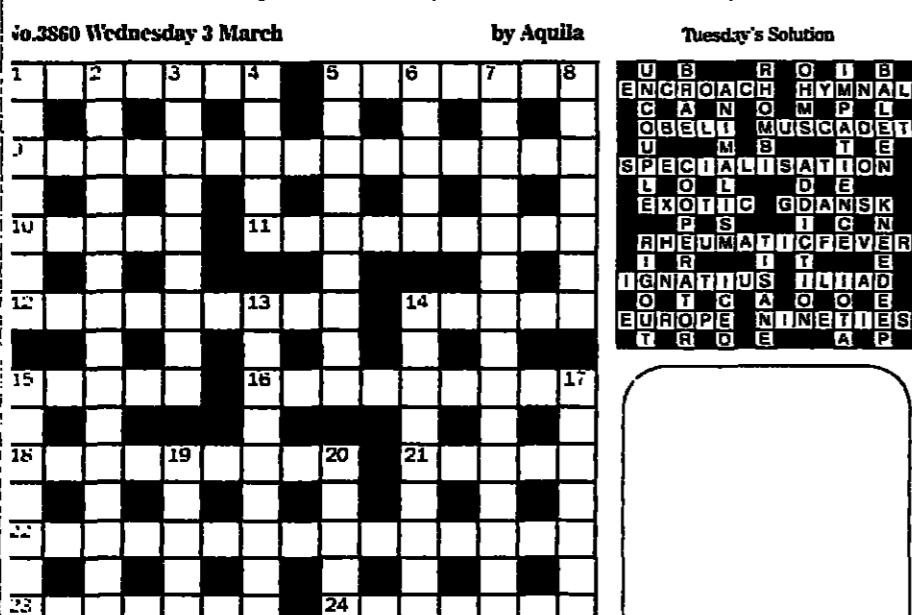
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STAM	KEANE	PAGLIAU
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	DIORKAFF	CAUET
	BECKHAM	GALANTE
		WINTER

REFeree: HELMUT KRUG (GERMANY)



Press Association

THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Hunting dog less well-bred, would you say? (7)
- 2 A cough's troubling men up in Argentina (7)
- 3 Single bartender, ho? (8,2,5)
- 4 About to have music around plant (5)
- 5 Star carsman has such trouble in the heat (9)
- 6 Happy times, once, on the greens (5,4)
- 7 Salty and clever, but not active (5)
- 8 Frenchmen in first part of Coward play tending to overact (5)
- 9 Hidden oil-places in steam organs (9)
- 10 Foreign currency stars trouble for moderates (9)
- 21 Fast run to junction (5)
- 22 Cause-leaders of common carriers? (8,7)
- 23 Travel document for route William followed (7)
- 24 Rector lacks alternative in cathedral in perpendicular style (7)
- 25 DOWN
- 1 Ancient measures engulfing school of painters (7)
- 2 Re-plan community in a way that is not flattering (15)
- 3 Light lecture's over when school prizes are given out? (6,3)
- 4 Castles in the air (5)
- 5 Reasons the French pull up weed with yellow
- 6 flowers? (9)
- 7 Not satisfied with some gun-metals (5)
- 8 Tense, like the tennis-balls received by Henry V? (8,7)
- 9 Concealment of quarters before battle? (7)
- 10 Of the line redesigned as Central? (9)
- 11 flowers? (9)
- 12 Not satisfied with some gun-metals (5)
- 13 Tense, like the tennis-balls received by Henry V? (8,7)
- 14 One holds papers of counsel taking lawsuit (9)
- 15 "Steel Cutter", old horse observed in the frame? (7)
- 16 Content to meet? (7)
- 17 More than one spoke in the Inner Wheel (5)
- 18 Fur bought originally in stock-clearance (5)

Le Saux and Fowler Atletico poised to make £17m bid for Anelka

BY MARK PIERSON

"They were both wrong to do what they did and now I think it would be fine to see the pair of them get together, admit that they both made a mistake, and then say, 'let's forget it.'

Vialli said he will be talking no action over the incident against Le Saux, but he has spoken to him. "When you are in a team that becomes very good you have to handle the stick. I know from experience that it has been far worse in Italy than it is here. Graeme knows something has gone wrong and he is the first one to admit he has made a mistake, and now he should know what to do if it happens in the future."

"I cannot say too much to him because I was sent off myself against Blackburn a few weeks ago. But with a player like Graeme I don't have to say too much."

The referee, Paul Durkin, and fourth official, Dermot Gallagher, missed the off-the-ball incident, which left Fowler flat on the turf. However, television pictures, captured by BBC's *Match Of The Day* cameras, appeared to show Le Saux's elbow make contact with the back of Fowler's head. Bad feeling between the players had been building up before the incident, with Fowler goading Le Saux.

After seeing the video evidence himself Durkin, who had booked both players earlier and warned them to stop the goading, said that had he seen the incident he would have sent Le Saux off.

Now the pair who looked certain to be called up by the new England coach, Kevin Keegan for the vital Euro 2000 qualifier against Poland on 27 March, are likely to be hit with suspensions and fines by the FA.

The Chelsea player-manage

Gianluca Vialli, yesterday called for an amicable solution, asking Le Saux and Fowler to shake hands on the incident.

ATLETICO MADRID are poised to make a £17m offer for Arsenal's French striker Nicolas Anelka, according to Spanish media reports.

Atletico have money to spend as they have effectively not replaced Christian Vieri since the Italian moved to Lazio last summer.

The Spanish transfer season does not begin until the summer, with no players able to be bought during the current campaign.

Peter Schmeichel hopes his performance against Internazionale tonight will attract attention from a Serie A side interested in signing a goalkeeper for next season.

The Dane's scheme, revealed to the Italian press, raises doubts about his original comment that he was leaving Old Trafford because of the "pressure of games".

Schmeichel will be extremely attractive to teams in Italy, as he is a free agent and might settle for a one-year contract. Roma have already shown interest in him.

Manchester United may yet

persuade him to stay, but their

spies are this week to watch

the two leading can-

didates to replace him, Mallor-

ca's Carlos Roa and Parma's Pierluigi Buffon. The Argentinian

Roa plays in the European

Cup-winners' Cup against Cro-

atian's Varela, tomorrow while

Buffon was watched by a dele-

gate at Bordeaux last night.

Middlesbrough will meet the

Italian striker Marco Branca

BY ALAN NIXON

today to discuss his determination to return to Premiership action. The 34-year-old former Inter player has been fighting against a career-threatening knee injury since April last year, and he has played barely 20 minutes of football over the past 11 months.

Boro terminated his contract on medical advice in December after Branca was unable to provide any evidence that his knee would be able to stand up to a return to the top level of the professional game.

Now the striker, armed with the diagnosis of Professional Foot-

ballers' Association orthopaedic surgeon, David Dandy, claims to have won his battle for fitness.

Boro yesterday said they would hold a meeting with Branca today, but the club's spokesman, Dave Allan, hinted that Branca's return to action is not a foregone conclusion.

"We have received a draft of

Mr Dandy's report which isn't

inconsistent with the earlier di-

agnosis from Andrew Weber," he said. "In view of the reports of the two consultants and Marco's insistence that he wants to continue playing, we're going to sit down with him on Wednesday and try to work out a satisfactory solution for all concerned."

Miguel Dominguez, a 19-

year-old Paraguayan striker,

has joined Middlesbrough on

loan.



Le Saux: Video evidence

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3 March 1999

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Cut the red tape and let small firms breathe

IF YOU are running a small business, or thinking of starting one, which of the following three things would you want of the Chancellor in next week's Budget? One: some new tax incentive for small businesses? Two: a package to boost enterprise and productivity? Or three: simply fewer government regulations?

Yes, it would be nice to have all three, but my guess would be that if business people had to choose only one, most would plump for the third. They don't want government to do more. They want it to do less.

There is the dilemma for Gordon Brown, and one of the most interesting things to look at next Tuesday will be how he tries to resolve it. For everything he has said about the forthcoming Budget, his instincts to try to find ways of encouraging enterprise will be translated into tax incentives and a more general business-boosting package. But if you look in practice at what has happened in the past few weeks, small businesses have been damaged by government action.

The introduction of self assessment has put a sharp cash squeeze

on large numbers of sole traders, an effect made worse because the Inland Revenue miscalculated many of the tax demands. In addition, even small businesses have had additional admin burdens loaded on to them by European Union directives on work hours, while the minimum wage and the working families tax credit have put still greater loads on the management team. In short, what the government says is precisely the opposite to what it does.

There is a particular problem here for small businesses. Large ones hire people to cope with the additional administrative work. This costs money, but large companies can always shed some workers or close a factory to offset the cost. A small business usually cannot afford to do so and a sole trader cannot do anything at all, except try to reallocate their time away from the job and towards doing the admin instead.

The Government's defence would be that these costs are still lower than those of other EU countries. That is a fair point, but the rate of bureaucratic burden, while worse than it was five years ago, is still acceptable by international standards.

So what is to be done? We should not sneer at the measures Gordon

proportion of self-employed is lower too. The key comparison is not with Europe but with the US, where there is a higher business start-up rate.

Is the admin burden on US business, particularly small business, lower than it is on UK ones? Well, no. It is almost certainly higher. In the Global Competitiveness Survey, the UK did well in terms of the time that business people had to spend with bureaucrats, only the Scandinavian countries ranked better. The US was in the middle and among the big European countries, France and particularly Italy ranked badly.

But Italy has vibrant small businesses, and in much of Scandinavia they are worried about the lack of emerging businesses. So anyone trying to argue that excessive bureaucracy is the main thing holding back business start-ups in Britain has a tough case to argue. It is very difficult to get any hard evidence, but my guess would be that the UK bureaucratic burden, while worse than it was five years ago, is still acceptable by international standards.

So what is to be done? We should



HAMISH MCRAE

Expect better investment allowances for small firms, further tax incentives for venture capital investment - including something for high-technology companies - and changes in capital gains tax

Brown will announce on Tuesday. Expect better investment allowances for small firms, further tax incentives for venture capital investment, including something for high-technology companies, and changes in capital gains tax to encourage asset holders who retain those assets for a number of years.

These changes should be helpful but it would be naive to expect anything dramatic to occur. The incentives for Venture Capital Trust and for the Enterprise Investment Scheme are pretty big already. In so far as there is a financing gap for small start-ups, the problem is not lack of tax incentives but other barriers, which have more to do with culture and attitude than anything that can be tackled by a tax break.

For a start the number of rich people wanting to risk their capital by backing a new venture is quite small. Next, the mechanism linking would-be investors with would-be entrepreneurs is haphazard. Once you get above about £250,000 the specialist venture capital companies start to become interested, but most start-ups need a lot less money

than that. Below £250,000 the costs of examining a project, making a decision, and monitoring the investment become too big relative to the rewards. So the only possible source of funds is from private individuals who want, as much as anything, the fun of backing a new business.

What is to be done? I have no magic wand, but I have a suggestion. It is that the Government should look at the regional differences in business start-up rates and try to identify why some regions - London and the South-east in particular - have high business start-up rates, while others - such as parts of Scotland - have relatively low ones. Is it a problem of supply or demand - is it possible to identify whether in some regions there is a relative shortage of capital to back ventures, or whether in those regions there is a shortage of people coming up with the projects? If the problem is money, it is relatively easy to fix. If it is a dearth of would-be entrepreneurs it is harder - but until you know the nature of the problem, you cannot begin to think how to fix it.

The good news is that much of the infrastructure for assisting new businesses is in place. The various development bodies have spent the past two decades trying to encourage inward investment, and been successful. But it is expensive to develop the incentives and companies are liable to up and leave. Now several of them are looking at refocusing their activities to try to boost local businesses. It is not easy and the impact on job creation, even when successful, is less dramatic. But within some of these organisations there is a growing view that this is the only secure way forward if you want to regenerate an area. Seeing foreign companies shut a number of high-profile plants in the past couple of years has had a searing impact on development agencies' attitudes.

Does this mean more bureaucracy? Well, yes, in the sense that if a publicly funded agency is involved, there has to be proper controls as to the way taxpayers' money is spent. But development agencies can be enormously helpful in meeting small businesses' needs. They can start by setting up helplines to assist them to obey all those regulations.

DATELINE: PEKING, CHINA

Prepare to shut up shop at any time

BY TERESA POOLE

IF EVER a country embodied the entrepreneurial spirit, it is China at the end of the 20th century.

Access to fast-changing technology and a "flexible" approach to business arrangements and outdated regulatory frameworks contribute to a contagious optimism about money-making opportunities.

Anything seems possible - until the frontline soldiers in China's long march towards a dynasty of small private businesses confront the might of the Chinese state.

Take the Chen brothers, in the Mawei district of Fuzhou city, in the south-eastern province of Fujian. Chen Zhi and Chen Yan have found themselves in a "David and Goliath" fight with China Telecom, the state telephone giant whose employee roll-call runs to more than a million.

It is outraged by a recent court ruling, which decreed that the Chen brothers had not broken the law in setting up an Internet international phone service in the back room of their suburban store, undercutting the sky-high call rates charged by the state monopoly.

The seeds of the trouble were planted in late 1997, when

court with orders to be heard by the end of April.

As the case stands now, this represents something of a hollow, albeit extraordinary victory. The police still have the computers and the money, and China Telecom swiftly introduced new regulations last September, saying that anyone running an Internet telephone service must first have its approval.

"Certain unlawful and illegitimate operators ... have taken a large part of revenues from us, amounting to several billion yuan," said Zheng Chunjiang, director of the Telecommunications Management Bureau at the Ministry of Information Industry in Peking. "This is tantamount to information smuggling."

He said China Telecom had plans for Internet telecommunications, and did not intend to share the business with all-comers. The Chens will go down in the annals of China's commercial history as failed early champions of consumer choice. They are unlikely to be the only ones. In Peking, the small traders of Sanlitun district are involved in a similar struggle of unequals, pitting risk-taking individuals against central planners.

Over the past five years, this part of the city has evolved into the nearest thing Peking has to a Hampstead High Street.

Encouraged by a critical mass of expatriates, and a growing number of middle-class Pekingers, Chinese and foreign entrepreneurs have set up a string of small, mostly private shops and restaurants along the tree-lined Gongti North Street.

They include Jenny Lou's grocery store, Sieglende Schindler's German butcher,

the Chen brothers launched their Internet service, offering five minutes of free international telephone time to entice customers into their electronics shop. Soon they were operating as a small phone service, attracting up to 20 callers a day.

China Telecom used its clout to send in the police, who detained the two men on charges of "endangering national security", confiscated their computer equipment, and hung on to 50,000 yuan (£4,000) in cash after releasing the brothers.

Unusually for China, the Chens decided to fight back. Last May, they went to the local Mawei court, claiming that as there were no laws or regulations outlawing the private provision of telephone services over the Internet, they could not have committed a crime. They accused the police of wrongful behaviour, and demanded the return of their equipment and money. The court said they had no case.

They appealed to the Intermediate People's Court in Fuzhou. Against all expectations, the Chens won, and the original case against the police was sent back to the Mawei

court with orders to be heard by the end of April.

the Italian cheese shop, and Farid Fakhour's Middle Eastern restaurant and cake shop.

Now even the smallest foreign-invested retail business must have a Chinese joint venture partner, and the most modest private Chinese business is at the mercy of demands from local bureaucrats for extra fees, taxes and permits. Even the

clearest rental lease can turn

out to be worthless. Especially when the local government wants to send in the bulldozers.

All these businesses have just been told by local cadres that they have only weeks to evacuate their premises, which are to be demolished for underground heating pipes and road-widening.

"I signed a four-year lease for my restaurant building," said

Mr Fakhour, a Syrian who has been doing business in China for two decades, and whose popular Thousand and One Nights restaurant opened only last April. "First I heard from other traders. Then after two or three days there was a letter, not signed, saying that they were going to demolish us."

None of the businesses will receive either compensation

or the offer of alternative accommodation. In the face of a construction project blessed by central government, no one believes there is any point trying to fight.

Wang Jianying is the driving force behind the Jenny Lou grocery stores and one of the most successful small Chinese traders in Peking. Her Gongti North Street shop opened in

April 1997 with a five-year lease. "How can they break it? Because it is the government's building. We spoke to them, but it's no use," she said.

If there is one essential quality for anyone doing business in China it is stamina.

"I know China very well," said Mr Fakhour. "I have my idea for business. When I lose something, I forget about it."

Farid Fakhour is resigned to losing his popular new Thousand and One Nights restaurant to the bulldozers

Natalie Behring

the Italian cheese shop, and Farid Fakhour's Middle Eastern restaurant and cake shop.

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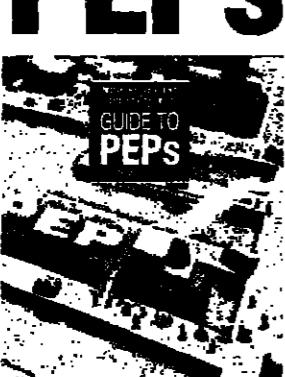
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THE INDEPENDENT
THE INDEPENDENT
ON SUNDAY

FREE GUIDE TO PEPS



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PEPS

BY NIC CICUTTI
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Roy Gardner (right) and Mark Clare of Centrica, which last week reported its first profit and rewarded shareholders who had remained loyal with a special dividend totalling £530m

Tom Craig

Old flame, new fire

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

Two years ago, British Gas held the dubious accolade of being Britain's most hated corporation, having earned its place in history as the birthplace of the Fat Cat. Then it was broken up, and today Centrica, its sales arm, is one of the nation's most admired companies with money to burn. It is even toying with buying the RAC. So how was this transformation achieved?



The rushes from British Gas's latest TV advertising campaign, which is helping to claw back customers

WHEN BRITISH GAS was broken up two years ago into a trading company called Centrica and a gas storage and transportation business called BG, they carved up the rights to the trade name between them.

But they also drew up a "poison pill" agreement to protect each other. If either company were taken over, the new owner would forfeit the right to call itself British Gas or use the familiar blue flame logo.

At the time it did not seem to be much of a defence against hostile takeover bids. Indeed, it looked more like the product of some terrible, misguided vanity. Far from being a prize asset, the name of British Gas was Mudd. Customer complaints were at an all-time high. The company had earned the sobriquet of the most hated corporation in Britain. Cedric Brown, its former chief executive, had assured British Gas a footnote in history as the birthplace of the Fat Cat. It was the kind of publicity that would make most firms desperate to change their identity, not ringfence it.

Of the two new businesses, Centrica was the one most in the firing line. It was the public face of British Gas to 19 million disgruntled customers through its chain of High Street energy centres. It was also responsible for checking three million central heating boilers through the three-star service scheme.

If any business was on a hiding to nothing, it was Centrica. But its troubles did not stop there. Competition had been introduced into the domestic gas market and British Gas's monopoly was being eroded fast by smarter and nimbler rivals who did not carry the negative baggage and could offer cheaper prices. To cap it all, Centrica had inherited some £30bn in liabilities in the shape of the old parent company's take-or-pay gas contracts in the North Sea.

If all of that wasn't enough to sink Centrica outright, it was sufficiently serious, potentially, to hole it below the waterline. Small surprise that the British Gas chairman, Sir Richard Giordano, had a simple piece of advice for the army of Sids who had jumped on board in 1987 when the business was privatised - abandon ship now.

There didn't seem to be much future in being a shareholder anyway since Centrica was not forecasting anything other than losses and was therefore not paying a dividend.

How times change. Last week, Centrica reported its first profit and, to reward those shareholders who had remained loyal, announced a special dividend totalling £530m. And Centrica has reversed the tide of customer defections. Its share of the domestic market has fallen to 80 per cent but for the first time since competition began in April 1996, it is gaining more customers than it is losing. Since the opening of the electricity market to competition last August, it has also set itself the goal of replacing every one of the four million gas customers lost with a customer from one of the regional electricity companies. After seven months, it is a quarter

of the way towards its target. But its sights now stretch beyond home energy. It wants to buy the RAC's motoring services division and is also lining up a consortium bid for Drax, Britain's biggest power station. Ultimately, Centrica sees no reason why it shouldn't leverage its customer base of 15.5 million households and the British Gas name to provide everything from car insurance and home shopping to mortgages and domestic appliance repairs.

There are several factors behind the transformation. Customer inertia is one. Based on Centrica's experience in those regions where competition has been running longest, it looks as if loss of market

share has hit a natural floor at about 30 per cent. Centrica's ability to offer "dual fuel" deals to households has made it price-competitive. The series of documentary-style television adverts, using real customers and real service engineers and filmed by Dominic Savage, the *Cutting Edge* director, also plays cleverly to the strengths of the British Gas brand. But most of the renaissance is down to two men, Centrica's chief executive, Roy Gardner, and its finance director, Mark Clare. Mr Gardner is all restless energy, his muscular physique accentuated by a tan he picked up last month in the Bahamas. Before joining British Gas as finance director in 1994, he

was managing director of GEC Marconi where he learned his trade under Lord Weinstock. Mr Clare, a former STC executive, is one of those finance directors who is a big picture man, not simply a number crunched. They make an interesting contrast with the two top men at BG, David Varney and Philip Hampton, who are also highly rated but in a different way. Where Mr Gardner is streetwise and forever on the lookout for a deal, Mr Varney is ana-lytic to the point of being ethereal.

"Gardner would sell his granny if he thought he could make a turn on it whereas Varney would probably philosophise on the ethics of treating old people in that way," says one analyst. "Gardner is a streetfighter. He just wants to take the gloves off and get it there."

His pugilistic tendencies have not hurt the share price. Since demerger in February 1997, Centrica has outperformed the market by 20 per cent, not bad for a company that recorded a bottom line loss of £79.1m in its first year of trading. Dr Rod Maclean, oil and gas analyst at ABN Amro, says: "Slowly but surely, they are putting the pieces together. They have renegotiated a good deal of the take-or-pay contracts, their gas market loss is less than expected and they have done better in electricity than they thought they would. As for

the energy regulator, he has much bigger fish to fry elsewhere." Centrica says the cost of acquiring each new electricity customer is £50 compared with the £100 a head National Power paid when it bought the supply business of Midlands Electricity and the £200 per customer PowerGen is paying through its acquisition of East Midlands Electricity. The City likes these numbers and the extra profit it expects Centrica to squeeze out of its new customer base.

ABN Amro is forecasting that operating profits will more than double from £20.8m last year to £52.8m in 2002. "The question is, 'Where to next?'" says Mr Maclean. "What worries some people is what they might buy and what the long-term growth prospects for the company are."

In particular, what worries the market is the idea that Centrica might become a roadside breakdown service. Mr Gardner says he has merely registered an interest in RAC. Even if it did, it is expected to offer substantially less than the £450m that Centrica of the US was prepared to pay. "Our operations are quite similar in terms of logistics, customer interface, billing and purchasing so the savings would be quite large," says Mr Gardner.

That much is true. Both businesses have men and vans and call centres and both provide an emergency service, which makes their cultures similar. But Centrica sees opportunities beyond that to exploit its expertise as a service company. Mr Gardner says that other than BT, no other company has comparable customer base. He believes it could support a great many more products and services around the home. Last year Centrica launched a home security division and more recently it has started experimenting with air-conditioning and electrical repair.

Beyond that it is examining the potential of home shopping and the burgeoning market of home automation - remote diagnostic systems that monitor utility services in the house. If Centrica takes the plunge into mortgages, it would be through its financial services division, which pioneered the successful launch of Goldfish and now has nearly 900,000 card members.

Inevitably, this has raised fears that Centrica may overstretch itself at the expense of its bedrock business of gas supply. But the Gas Consumers Council does not share this concern.

Jenny Kirkpatrick, its chairwoman, says: "Provided it brings greater energy efficiency to the home and doesn't disadvantage those who are less able to afford the add-on services, then it will be beneficial."

The council is less happy with Centrica's dominant market position. "After nearly three years of competition, it still supplies eight in 10 homes with gas and looks like replacing all its lost gas market with new electricity customers," says Ms Kirkpatrick. "If I was one of the smaller players up against British Gas, I'd be cheeched off."

Mr Gardner likes it that way.

CENTRICA TURNS UP THE HEAT

CENTRICA WAS formed from the demerger of British Gas on 17 February 1997. It is valued at £5.2bn and has 15,000 employees and 15,500 domestic and industrial customers. It also operates a 240-strong chain of gas showrooms and has a service division with three million customers.

Its chairman is Sir Michael Perry, the former chairman of the consumer products giant Unilever. But the driving forces

behind the company are Roy Gardner, its chief executive, and Mark Clare, the finance director. Mr Gardner, 53, has run the New York and London marathons and is an avid Manchester United fan. He joined

British Gas in November 1994 as finance director and took charge of the businesses that formed Centrica a year later.

Mr Clare is regarded in the City

as much more than a conventional finance director. "He's very much in control of the strategy as well as the numbers," says one analyst. "Together they make an impressive pair."

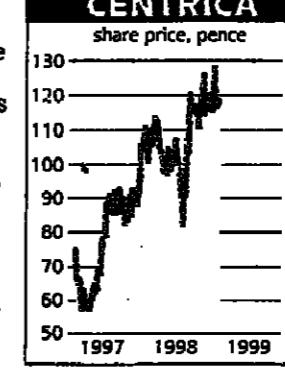
The rewards of success are large. Mr Gardner earns £193,000 a year and has a further 1.3m Centrica shares earmarked for him under the company's long-term incentive scheme.

In addition he has 1.4m share options currently showing a paper profit of £500,000.

But the 1.3m Sids who have stuck with Centrica since demerger also stand to gain - its share price has risen 60 per cent in the last two years.

Apart from gas, Centrica is also the company behind the Goldfish credit card, which now has 900,000 members. It is keen to expand further into financial services, possibly offering mortgages. It is also looking at buying the RAC.

CENTRICA share price, pence



Source: Datstream

ENTERPRISE ISSUES

There's profit in empowerment of your people

IF SOMEBODY was to write a business version of Gustave Flaubert's *Dictionary of Received Ideas*, the great novelist's satire of conventional wisdom and cliché, it would certainly contain the entry: "People: our most important asset."

As with any notion that has lost its freshness, it is well worth asking what it means and whether it is correct. Surprisingly, this mainstay of management-speak has rarely been checked against reality. Perhaps even more surprisingly, when it is, it turns out to be true.

After all, it is easy to be cynical about the lip-service paid by most managers to that precious resource, their workforce. It only takes a little casual observation to demonstrate that many managers subscribe to other schools of practice – especially the "grind 'em down, keep 'em in the dark, and work 'em hard for as little as you can get away with paying" schools.

Even in so-called "people businesses" such as advertising or management consultancy, it is clear that many bosses hate the

thought of ceding any control to employees or, well, having to manage their staff. In most companies the personnel or "human resources" department has little to do with managing human resources, acting rather as a sort of compliance office to make sure the company is not breaking the law.

Yet recent research that tries to

quantify the potential effects of decent people-management suggests that the gains could be huge, dwarfing the likely impact of more R&D, better strategic planning or quality drives. A study carried out by high-profile academics for the Institute of Personnel and Development uses a regular survey of 67 medium-sized manufacturing companies in Sheffield since 1990. It assesses and quantifies the links between a variety of management policies and the companies' productivity and profitability.

The study finds that people management is one of the management inputs that does affect business output. What is a real eye-

The answers are: Yes, job sat-



DIANE COYLE

Many managers merely pay lip service to their workforce and ignore the real potential

isfaction alone can raise profits by 5 per cent; yes, "cultural" factors can account for 10 per cent of the variation in profits between different companies; job design – particularly giving workers shopfloor responsibility – and skill development each explain about half of the contribution of people policies to company performance; and people policies can explain nearly a fifth of the variation in profitability and productivity, compared with 2 per cent for strategy, 1 per cent for quality drives, 1 for new technology and 8 for R&D.

Of course, the sample is small and there are difficulties in measuring the left side of the regression equations in the study, the measures of management input. Job satisfaction is relatively easily measured – proportion of employees surveyed reporting that they are satisfied in about 15 areas, including autonomy, safety, physical conditions, pay, promotion prospects, job security and so on. And this one indication

of the success of human resource policies can account for 12 per cent of the difference in profits between companies.

The numbers are impressive enough, but remember that the analysis is based on a sample of relatively small manufacturing companies. Just think how much bigger the pay-off in improved productivity and profitability could be for a bigger business presenting a bigger management challenge, or for a company in a private or public service industry where people are the main input.

Of course, it's not easy to boost profits by 20 per cent by tweaking personnel policies; every business would have done it, rather than just a few. But is it the training programme, the appraisal system, the variety of work or the pay relative to competitors that matters?

I feel the answer is the degree to which individual employees get autonomy and control over their own work. This is vital for job satisfaction, allowing swifter problem-solving and decision-taking, and

ensuring relevant information influences decisions quickly. It must be an important part of encouraging employees to internalise the aims and needs of the business.

Research by Bill Lazearick at the University of Massachusetts found productivity gains from the devolution of control to the shop floor. He reported a case study of a failing Massachusetts toy factory which, as a desperate last measure, handed over the running of the business to the women assembly workers. They boosted productivity and quality and turned the company around. But the managers hated losing control so they closed the factory.

This is the real catch. Not only do businesses need to do the right sort of human resource management, they have to want to do it to get it right. Whatever the next piece of research turns up, it will not be a mechanical solution. It will not be enough to say that people are the business's most important asset; managers will have to really mean it.

FOCUS

Beware: Big Brother has an eye on your e-mail

BY CHARLES ARTHUR

third party, a system known as "key escrow". With a warrant, the Government could access keys and decode messages.

But beyond government, the perception is that that will harm, not help, the development of an international business in which the UK is already lagging. Peter Mandelson's departure from the DIT last December dismayed many in the electronics and computing industry; they felt that, at least, he understood the importance of having the least possible regulation on electronic business. Without him to subdue the Home Office in Cabinet, key escrow looks inevitable.

Bizarre though it sounds, this metaphor describes the proposals expected in a government Bill on electronic commerce, due to be published in the next few days by the Department of Trade and Industry. And British businesses are not pleased. Just when they thought they were getting consumers excited about the Internet, and were themselves discovering the possibilities of cutting costs by trading around the world over the electronic network, they have found that the Government wants, like Big Brother in George Orwell's *1984*, to be able to know what they are doing at any time.

Some of the reactions to the proposal are not polite. "Idiotic" is one phrase that has been used, though publicity most are more restrained. Peter Dare, who oversees IBM's development of electronic trading systems in Europe, points out: "The Government can only regulate one country, but electronic commerce is global. You need to solve the problem at a global level."

The problem is that there is a conflict between what governments want to observe in e-commerce, and what consumers and business want to let them see.

Even home computers can encrypt messages. Consumers like that; it gives them confidence that their credit card details are not being redistributed over the Internet when they buy a bunch of roses. For business, it means not having to worry that rivals will read your e-mail.

But to a policeman intercepting an e-mail stream, does an encrypted message signal a paranoid newbie, or a paedophile? Are uncrackable e-mails between a business and a bank legitimate, or money laundering? On Monday Paul Higdon, of Interpol's Criminal Intelligence directorate, told a conference in London that criminals' use of technology "has outpaced us". What the police want is a short cut; a quick way to crack those codes. It won't come from computers, so it must be created in law.

Battle lines are drawn, and will become clearer when the delayed draft Bill on Electronic Commerce is published, possibly later this week. The Home Office is expected to have won its fight for controls on encryption, particularly to have copies of the keys used for coding messages lodged with a licensed

Mandelson: His departure dismayed computer world

tertium would buy a phone knowing the government could tap it? Commercially, it bombed.

Thus proposals for key escrow on data communications by UK business has drawn weary sighs from those with any knowledge of history. That does not seem to include the Government. "This needs a balance between the ease of access, under lawful control, and the protection of the consumer," said Peter Bonfield, chief executive of BT, in testimony to the House of Commons Select Committee on Trade and Industry last month. "I don't think this is a technologically argument."

In other words, catching fraud is not about catching criminals' messages, it is about catching criminals.

Keith Chapple, managing director of the UK arm of chip-makers Intel, added: "The French were keen to have key escrow. But they realised that it won't help law enforcement ... because one thing you are sure of is that criminals don't obey the law."

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Charley

BY MARY
Sir John Hall had a dream to bring Newcastle into the 21st century with a company that could compete on football to ice hockey to business. The man behind his vision is Sir John Hall, his manager, and his mentor.

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THE CANARY

Overlooked: Elisabeth Murdoch, closer to mum Anna than dad Rupert, looks further behind than ever in the succession stakes at News Corp. With brother Lachlan given new duties in America to add to his Australian brief, there's no doubt who's ahead in the pecking order. Despite her high profile at the Edinburgh TV festival last summer, which many assumed meant she was in effective command at BSkyB, Elisabeth remains firmly Number Two there too. Among those who count, BSkyB chief executive Mark Booth's stock is way up after the successful launch of Sky Digital.



Caught in the Net: What happens when the cogs at the telephone company get into a joint venture with two glamorous cutting-edge media companies? You get LineOne, the Internet joint venture of BT, News International and United Newspapers. LineOne is currently pulled off to the side of the infobahn awaiting some sort of digital AA man. But is there anything to salvage? The notion was that British consumers would stampede for an online service featuring topless page three girls from the Sun plus the exciting content of the Daily Express. With only 70,000 subscribers after two years, the service is an also-ran, a minnow next to Dixon's Freeserve (1 million) and NASDAQ-quoted AOL (550,000). Now the LineOne partners are squabbling over what to do next.

Perk watch: Now everyone will be wanting one. Daimler-Chrysler has ordered an Airbus 319 with 46 seats to shuttle executives between its two headquarters in Stuttgart and Detroit. Good choice: it's a sweet flying jet. The Germans have ordered it equipped for all the normal business services (phone, fax, e-mail) and passengers will be expected to work. Not all executives are keen. On Lufthansa they turn out the lights and order you to sleep.



Goldman's ambition: The story so far... Last autumn Goldman were about to become the richest bankers in the world, then the market collapsed and Goldman lost a bundle of money. The float is back on. Perhaps there will be a revival in the country house market after all. Meanwhile, Goldman's new London command bunker is rising. Structural work is nearly complete on the vast new extension behind the Grade I listed modernist black facade of the former Daily Express building, known to generations of hacks as the black glass Lubyanka. The new building will be connected by an air bridge to Goldman's current tall, the granite money factory on the site redeveloped by Goldman behind the preserved Daily Telegraph facade. Goldman now controls a larger frontage on Fleet Street than any press baron ever did.

Ralph Bernard

Chief Executive

GWR

I ADMIRE the people who have built up their business from scratch. They are usually people who conspire positively to manipulate circumstance to create their product.

Tim Schoonmaker, chief executive of Emap Radio, is one such force. He is a formidable businessman in radio, determined to achieve what he perceives as right for his company. He's not the forceful type, and is convincing rather than bullish. He knows exactly where he wants his network to be heading and is aided by his refusal to shy away from tough decisions.

Another pioneer of the airwaves is Eddie Blackwell, who is on the board at GWR and steeped in radio. You can't really be successful in radio without that kind of relationship with radio.

Roger Lewis

Managing Director

Classic FM

PASSION AND a real commitment to listeners, with a fan's belief and enthusiasm for the genre - be it news, sport, speech or music - alongside a can-do, must-do-now attitude reflecting the immediacy of the medium all wrapped up in charismatic leadership with the ability to manage the interface between culture and commerce: these are the ingredients for a great radio executive.

The people who embody these qualities include Ralph Bernard, the chief executive of GWR, who has lived the business from top to bottom, is totally committed to it, and is without doubt the most successful radio executive today.

Second I would like up Richard Park at Capital Radio. He's a hard driven, single-minded man with a passion for music radio and he has steered Capital for more than a decade.

Finally there's Steve Orchard, group programme director of GWR. He's the best radio programmer in the business, because he mixes the science of research with music and fun far better than anyone I know.

John Pearson

Chief Executive

Virgin Radio

THERE ARE a lot of extremely clever and hard-working people in the radio industry. I feel very much in debt to all the other people I will be sharing this page with who have been responsible for a renaissance in listening and revenue over the past five years.

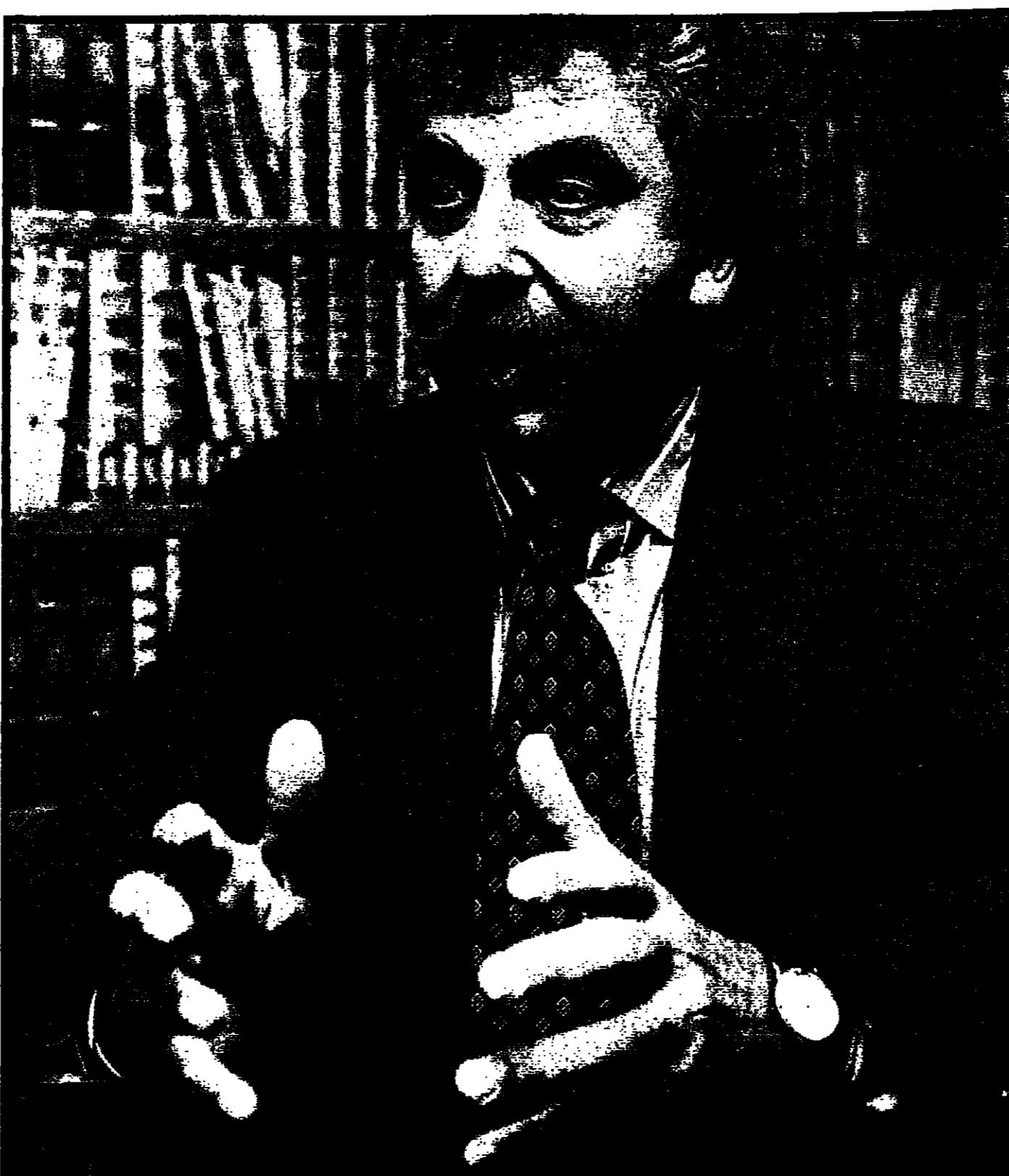
From my point of view, the people I respect the most in the industry are the senior management and staff of this radio station, including, of course, the inimitable Chris Evans. I do have good reason. For me each one represents the core reasons for the industry's success: enthusiasm, fun and genuine passion for the medium.

Jason Bryant

Development Director

Talk Radio

I WOULD single out Ralph Bernard for the vision he has shown in transforming GWR into a major media business. He has taken risks but seen them rewarded, particularly at



Ralph Bernard, admired even by industry rivals for his ability to keep the medium in the headlines

Classic FM. More bravely, he has led the development of commercial digital radio.

Richard Huntingford at Chrysalis has skilfully built a tremendous business through acquisition and licence awards, while Tom Hunter at Liverpool's Radio City stands out for his brilliant understanding of the market and team-building skills.

Elsewhere, I had better mention my boss Kelvin MacKenzie in case nobody else does, and Chris Evans at Virgin who have both given national commercial radio a tremendous boost in profile. Finally, let's not forget that the BBC retains half of all radio listening and some talented individuals at the top. Roger Mosey at 5 Live is undoubtedly the best I have come across in the public sector.

Other qualities I look for would be a grasp of how important talent is and an ability to nurture it. Radio is about quality entertainment, and any station looks to its presenters to help pull in the audience.

Jim Mair of Radio 2 has this ability and a great sense of what makes showbusiness. It would be difficult to talk about figureheads in the industry without mentioning Chris Evans and the sheer innovation he has brought to his station.

Jenny Abramsky

Director

BBC Radio

ANY outstanding executive or boss would have to know how to create a station which related to the audience. One such man is Jimmy Gordon. His years of experience enable him to recognise good radio and how to make it.

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Richard Findlay

Chief Executive

Scottish Radio Holdings

I WOULD say that to stand out in radio these days you need a vision, a plan for the future.

The man I most admire is Jimmy Gordon. Admittedly, he is the chairman here at SRH but he was in at the beginning when he started up Radio Clyde. Since then he has scarcely swerved in his beliefs, never compromised his integrity or forgotten the public service aspects of commercial radio, which can sometimes get lost or confused.

Michael Connolly

Chief Executive

Independent Radio Group

THE MAN I most admire in radio at the moment is Terry Smith, chairman of Emap Radio.

He was the founding father of Emap Radio and has done an extremely skilful job in organising it. He is a genius at building big radio because he is talented, bright and not afraid to take risks.

At the same time, the risks he takes are controlled. He uses his judgement to evaluate the situation and that judgement has been honed through his long and successful career in radio. He's shrewd and well versed in the ways of radio. A canny Yorkshireman and a flexible, capable radio executive. He is a figurehead in the industry.

Richard Huntingford

Chief Executive

Chrysalis Radio

I think it's vital for those who have been in radio for a long time and who have worked their way to the top to retain a passion and enthusiasm for the medium. It's so easy to become jaded.

My managing director, Phil Riley, has managed to keep his original love and fascination with radio. It is important because it keeps you on your toes. Combine this with strong leadership and team-building qualities and you have your ideal radio executive.

Team-building skills are very important in an industry which comprises people of many natures and skills - the executives, the creatives, the engineers, the presenters - and it is extremely important to be able to unite your people.

Radio is a people industry, so anyone who wants to do well has to be good with people - you should be a good team leader with drive, charisma and personality. And you have to be inspirational. That's the key.

INTERVIEWS BY

SALLY CHATTERTON

BOOK OF THE WEEK

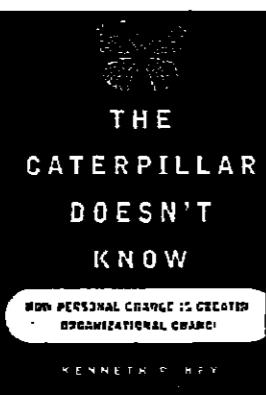
Gear up for the downshift

The Caterpillar Doesn't Know
by Kenneth Hey and Peter Moore
(Simon & Schuster, £20)

SO MUCH has been written about the inability of businesses to engage their workforces for any significant time that the initial reaction to this book may be: "Oh, woe is me."

But that would do it a disservice. Yes, it starts with plenty of comment about how the "more, better, faster" mentality that drove the communities of wealth through decades of success has now run headlong into a personal reassessment that "enough is enough". But this is just by way of context.

The real message from Hey and Moore - the partners in the US market intelligence firm Inferential Focus - is not just that more people are apparently giving up high-flying careers in the search for "bal-



One of the most obvious examples cited as evidence of "the new reality" is how McDonald's trumpets its low-cost meals while Starbucks attracts queues for its premium-priced coffees.

One is struggling to be the low-cost provider in the old marketing game, while the other is offering "a reward, a moment of quiet, a solution in the context of a world out of control".

The book is not as touchy-feely as it sounds. Hey and Moore are asserting that companies that think they need only produce top-quality products or services risk missing the boat. The book wraps its thinking in such phrases as "discovery solutions" and "response purchase", but offers further indications of the case for responding to individuals' changing priorities.

After all, Hey and Moore point out, while people economise on transport by

buying second-hand cars and keeping them longer, they are also spending heavily on such items as prepared salads. Between 1989 and 1996 this market grew from \$2.2m to \$1.1bn. "Consumers will pay for solutions," they say.

It is now possible to carve significant niches with specialised services or products solving problems that did not exist before, such as both parents working long hours. The mark of success is to get there before the opposition - which means anticipating consumer trends. One of the keys is to realise that consumers and employees are essentially the same people.

The book's title comes from a business rethink by Mort Meyerson, former head of EDS and Perot Systems: "The caterpillar doesn't know that he'll come out as a butterfly. All he knows is that he's alone, it's dark, and it's a little scary."

ROGER TRAPP

MY BIGGEST MISTAKE was that I spent so many years not recognising my talents. For most of my early working life I had assumed my vocation was to be a good secretary, and I felt frustrated when I was not taken seriously.

In my last company, a plastics manufacturer, it dawned on me that I was quite a vocal person. I was taking on more and more responsibility, looking after a film sales account and running the company's advertising and marketing activities.

As well as that I was handling my responsibilities as PA to the managing director. One evening at 7 I looked out at the car park and noticed that my car was the only non-company car still there.

The next morning I issued an ultimatum to my boss. Either he gave me the job title I deserved and rewards to go with the position, or I moved on. I was subsequently appointed commercial manager,

then commercial director. I had a good mentor at the company who told me: "Don't hide your light under a bushel." I let it sit for 10 years because I needed a new challenge.

I came to Octavius Hunt in 1989 without a job description. I had an empty desk and my work evolved. There were no formal systems or procedures.

Chemring bought the company in 1991, but it operated au- tonomously. They allowed their companies to breathe. I was given good advice by the president of an American account I used to look after. "The art of a good manager is to not be missed when you are not there." That taught me about delegation.

My promotions were gradual and not something I particularly sought. My predecessor was an engineer.

so the company was production-led. Since I've taken over, it's sales-led, which is how it should be.

I've had to become more of a lateral thinker and be more enterprising. I used to be a bit of a plodder but now I have to look beyond the immediate future because the company has to grow.

It's always been successful and profitable and the maxim, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" applies. But we want to expand our research and development department. We already manufacture smoke pesticides and now we want to develop scented smokes and security smokes. When the position of managing director was first offered to me, I took some time to think it over. I had always seen myself as a number two. I thought, 'I've never failed at anything and I don't intend to start now.' It was a huge responsibility but I've never looked back.

RACHELLE THACKRAY

MY BIGGEST MISTAKE

I was slow to take charge

Jan Reynolds is the managing director of Bristol match manufacturer

Octavius Hunt. The company has 45

staff and an annual turnover of £2m.

The MoD and the

Australian army are

clients

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RACHELLE THACKRAY

Should you information

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Fund superstars may find their lost sparkle

ONE OF the most striking features of the investment climate is that so many highly regarded professional investment managers are performing very badly, not just by their standards but in absolute terms. Even George Soros and Julian Robertson, the two biggest names in the global fund business, have done pretty badly over 12 months. And there are some equally surprising reversals of fortune in the UK market.

Given the share of advertising from 1 per cent to nearly 12, the money has to be thought. The managing director of the Radio Broadcast Bureau, he concluded, was without it, in the middle of the centre of all these changes. But the backdrop for the two managers and single-handed studio culture did not tell the success story that in the previous three quarters seemed to any radio executive to be very bright, he is his own man, regardless when it comes to a success that he wants.

He is a wunder young man, and thinks a door.

Over a tough market, he used to be the medium of choice, but things have changed. The agent for change was when we decided that a customer focus approach was the way forward. Many radio owners are smart looking but Douglas convinced him to the customer.

The Schoenmaker

Chair Executive

Group Radio

THE RADIOMAN OF THE FUTURE, to be Paul Brown of the Group Radio Companies Association. Inspire him because I think the most difficult relationship to deal with is with great success.

He has the task of dealing with all the disparate views and interests in radio, and making them in two years, and their approval. The chairman probably have more power through his singlemindedness than that in the industry, characteristic for a radio to be radio at the moment.

He will be successful in two years. But the radio business has been transformed, with the market will be the same, but the show must go on.

It is a very different world. And if you don't want to go to the radio business, then you have to go to the same place.

Richard Montgomerie

Chair Executive

Group Radio

I think it's vital for the future of radio that we have worked the radio station partners to the maximum. It's a great joined.

My managing director is managing to be a good and important part of your team. A good leadership and team, and you have to be a good leader.

That's building a good part of an excellent future for the company, and the strength of the company, it is extremely good to be a good leader.

Radio is a great place where a good leader can go to great success. And personal success to be a good leader.

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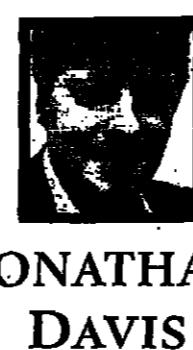
coincidence that so many of those who have recently lost a little of their lustre follow a style of investment that has similar features. Several who have recently underperformed the market or their peers have one of two things in common. Either they have traditionally had a bias towards smaller companies or their methods are rooted in so-called value investing, which favours shares that appear cheap over shares which are growing or moving fast. Both styles are out of fashion. Smaller companies as a class have seriously underperformed some of the largest capitalisation shares.

Others may conclude that fund managers are very well paid for their labours and some people will doubtless find enjoyment in observing such figures struggling to justify their corn.

And by refusing to pay what

would be historically high prices for today's best performing shares, many value investors have suffered from the increasingly narrow focus of the market's behaviour over the past 18 months to two years on just a few fashionable sectors. They are

telecoms, pharmaceuticals, utilities, anything with an Internet as



JONATHAN
DAVIS

Poor fund manager performances could simply be a matter of investment style

sociation. The stock market's continued strength, here and to a lesser extent in America, has now become dangerously concentrated on a handful of large and well-capitalised companies. They operate in international markets, which are today's stock market darlings, but they trade on multiples of earnings and cash flow inordinately high by conventional standards.

We are seeing a momentum-driven market that no self-respecting value investor could find appealing. Most gain recorded by the Footsie index in the past year has been focused on a few companies. It is unhealthy and normally an indication that some market correction is overdue.

Although most fund managers never really earn their money over time (which is the root reason for putting a good chunk of your money into index-tracking funds), there are some exceptional talents who can and do justify the fees they charge. The problem is that it is usually far from easy either to spot the real stars in advance, or to find an opportunity to buy into their expertise at a price that makes sense.

No really exceptional professional investors will change styles just because the market is temporarily out of sync with their methods, so it follows that one of the few times when you can profit from their talent is when the market appears to have left them behind. The hard fact is that every genuinely

first-class investor, from George Soros and Warren Buffet down, has experienced periods of awful returns by comparison with the short-term performances of his peers.

It is silly to judge a professional investor by performance over anything less than three years. What matters is whether you can analyse the reasons for the under-performance and see if it is a matter of style (which is cyclical) or something fundamentally wrong.

You can safely bet that most of the fallen stars will be back among the leaders before long. If you can buy into their skills at an attractive discount (eg through an investment trust such as Anthony Bolton's Fidelity Special Values), now is the time.

One of the great bargains of last year was the chance to buy into Mark Mobius' emerging markets fund at 34 per cent discount. There will be others of similar attraction as long as the current market conditions prevail.

Should you invest in... information technology?

BY KEIRON ROOT

going to concentrate on the UK or Europe? If you are looking for global companies that are based in the UK, the obvious one is ARM Holdings. It produces specialist microprocessors for equipment that needs low power.

The company has a global presence although that is already reflected in its share price. Its technology is not exactly unique, but competition is sufficiently small for it to hold a strong position, supplying to companies like Nokia and Ericsson. That is the kind of company that is going to be successful, providing it can manage its growth.

Investors who can choose, therefore, tend to concentrate on smaller, growth stocks. "The ones that are particularly like that in my portfolio at the moment are Royalblue and DCS Group," says Nigel Thomas, manager of ABN Amro's UK Growth

Fund. "Royalblue is definitely my best pick. It is in helpdesk and financial software and growing at 30 per cent per annum. Its p/e is up there with the rest of the sector, but it is not exorbitant and it has just had some excellent figures."

Thomas argues that Royalblue has the sort of attractive market niche that investors should be looking for.

"Bill Gates is on record as saying that the helpdesk software market

will show annual growth at 25 to 30 per cent for the next five years, and Royalblue is a major player in that market," he says.

"I think the best Internet service

provider is Easynet [also AIM listed], which is a UK business but is also in Germany and other parts of Europe.

"Its strength is that it is attacking the corporate market, signing up a client and helping them develop their website and then developing other services from there."

is more involved with software for financial dealers. It meets my criteria of looking for good companies that are not on excessive ratings. It is also important that these are not "blue sky" companies - you are looking at actual businesses," he says.

But what if you want to take a punt on some of Thomas's "blue sky" companies? "JSB Software Technologies is an AIM stock that provides access control software, for example, to dealing services to prevent dealers doing their own thing and it is actually making profits from a former business," Thomas says.

"This is software that can handle

inquiries and link that to a client company's systems. There is a general convergence of software and systems on a global scale so helpdesks can be based in Dublin or Bangalore or wherever."

Nigel Thomas's other current star has a more specific focus. "DCS

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Nigel Thomas's other current star has a more specific focus. "DCS

is more involved with software for

financial dealers. It meets my criteria of looking for good companies that are not on excessive ratings. It is also important that these are not "blue sky" companies - you are looking at actual businesses," he says.

But what if you want to take a punt on some of Thomas's "blue sky" companies? "JSB Software Technologies is an AIM stock that provides access control software, for example, to dealing services to prevent dealers doing their own thing and it is actually making profits from a former business," Thomas says.

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Allied seems a permanent guest in the Last Chance saloon

ALLIED DOMEQ has been a Footsie under-achiever since it was created 40 years ago by a merger of three of the leading brewers of the time.

Until early January there were faint signs, not for the first time, that the retailing and spirit group was at last getting its act together. The shares edged ahead, nudging 60p.

But true to form, Allied once again dashed hopes of a significant revival. A poor trading statement had City analysts scurrying for their calculators as, once again, profit forecasts were pulled back.

About £590m is now expected this year, which would compare with £602m in 1997. Allied management

has turned supping in the Last Chance saloon into an art form – it has achieved the impossible, permanent residence.

Other assorted setbacks in past years, ranging from a £147m foreign exchange fiasco to the ill-timed Domecq acquisition, as well as an astonishing inability to grow the business, should have destroyed hopes that Allied will ever emerge as a Footsie pacesetter.

And the group's dismal failure to respond to the creation of the Diageo spirits behemoth merely adds to the catalogue of management shortcomings.

Wise old stock market players are often reluctant to base a longish-

term investment on takeover hopes. But Allied must be the exception. It has a fine array of spirit brands (Ballantine and Teacher Scotch whiskies and Beefeater gin) and one of the best pub estates in the country. If ever there was the proverbial sitting duck, it is Allied. Indeed, but for the nagging market feeling that such a vulnerable group will eventually be taken out of its misery, the shares would probably be even more depressed.

There is just a chance that the chairman, Sir Christopher Hogg, will roll out a demerger scheme to head off any threatened takeover strike. A strong case has been made for splitting the group into two stand-



DEREK
PAIN

INVESTING FOR INCOME



Thinking small, where investors tend to be very loyal, can lead to picking up large rewards

alone companies, retailing (an assortment of franchise operations and the pub) and the distilling business. Allied has in the past turned its face against a demerger but there are suspicions that the latest setback and the dismal share price could encourage the plan to be dusted down. Pumping its spirits operations into a similar business would be another form of demerger. A further possibility is a share buyback but such an exercise, I think, rarely has much impact on a share price – ask Halifax shareholders.

Although a demerger would enhance shareholder value it would be unwise to base any share purchase on such a possibility. It would be even

more daft to bank on anything spectacular on the trading front. No, the reason for taking a chance on Allied is, quite simply, it will be shocked out of its slumbers by old-fashioned takeover action. Bids of around 65p a share could be expected, against the dismal 48.5p prevailing that now values the group at £55m.

There is little doubt the Allied parts are worth more than the whole. But with the shares so near their 10-year low the Allied under-valuation should be brought to an end.

I know that over the years Allied has on many occasions been tipped on recovery and bid hopes. And many commentators have said the sad under-performance must one day end.

They've ended up with egg on their face. I could suffer the same fate. But with the shares so near their 10-year low the Allied under-valuation should be brought to an end.

They've ended up with egg on their face. I could suffer the same fate. But with the shares so near their 10-year low the Allied under-valuation should be brought to an end.

Is Futureworld a micro economy?

IS MICRO investment the way ahead?

Tony Blair seems to think so. In a speech to the National Council of Voluntary Organisations earlier this year, the Prime Minister praised the benefits of "credit unions, community loan funds, development trusts and social banks like the Triodos Bank".

Micro what? Malcolm Lynch, a solicitor who specialises in the field, explains: "This is a growing sector which offers the ethically and ecologically minded the chance to invest across a spectrum of projects. Some offer a high social [as opposed to financial] return, others compete against non-ethical alternatives."

Unlike unit trusts or bank deposit accounts, these are not standard retail investments. Most either give poorer returns or are far riskier. "You should invest in these only when you have satisfied your other financial needs such as pension provision, or income," says Mr Lynch.

Some are provident mutual societies, which sell "shares" giving member status to their owners, including the right to vote and influence policy.

The Aston Reinvestment Trust, for example, has already raised £300,000 against a target of £3.5m by 2000. You can invest £250 to £20,000, with 90 days' notice needed to withdraw your cash.

BY IAIN MORSE

ART relends in the Aston area, providing capital for business start-ups and community projects.

The Sheffield Employment Bond aims to raise £3m and requires a minimum deposit of £100. The interest is invested in creating jobs in Leeds and investors are guaranteed a return of their capital after five years.

The Wind Fund, sponsored by Triodos Bank, is an ecological fund that aims to finance the development of electricity using wind-driven turbines. The fund has already paid for turbines in Scotland and Cumbria.

Simon Jenkins of Triodos Bank says: "These investments are about putting your money where your mouth is. It attracts those who want a close relationship with the firms or other enterprises they are investing in."

Elsewhere, Parry People's Movers, set up by an engineer, John Parry, to develop cheap urban transport for large Third World cities, now has shares traded on Oxfex. This is an exchange for shares in small, unquoted firms seeking private venture capital.

"We have a very loyal band of investors," says Mr Parry. "They have complete and open access to our fac-

tory whenever they wish. Many also offer to help the firm in small ways, by making a visit here or gathering some information there."

Projects of this kind need a little more thought than is normal when you make an investment. You balance narrowly defined prospects of financial gain or loss, with far broader moral considerations.

"These often come down to the simple question: what kind of world do you want to live in?"

There are also signs that a new, distinct group of ethically and ecologically minded entrepreneurs are seeking funds from like-minded investors often by offering shares in privately owned, unlisted companies.

Jamie Hartzel, a director of the Ethical Property Company, says: "We are seeking investors to finance the development of office and business centres for the voluntary and cooperative sectors."

"Our management style is transparent; we are trying to offer an ethical property investment paying dividends and offering capital growth while at the same time charging low and flexible rents to our tenants."

Malcolm Lynch, 0113 242600; Aston Reinvestment Trust, 0121 352444; Sheffield Employment Bond, 0114 25721; Triodos Bank, 0117 93333.

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*Based on Standard & Poor's Micro 52 PEP in survey. Offer to bid price, gross income re-invested, European Trust active. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future.

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*Source: Standard & Poor's Micro 52 PEP in survey. Offer to bid price, gross income re-invested, assuming our European Trust had been available as a PEP. 52 funds in survey. Over the five years to 1.1.99, the same investment would have provided a return of 11.49%. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of units and the income from them can go down as well as up and is not guaranteed. Exchange rate changes may cause the value of any overseas investments to go down as well as up. The tax position of PEPs will change in April 1999. For more information call or write to Scottish Widows Investment Management Limited, Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and DIFC.



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Transfer your existing PEPs into the low cost All-Share Index-Tracking PEP that has performed the best*.

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Investment Returns

Since launch Nov 95 to Feb 99

Provider	Investment	Management Charge	Performance
Legal & General UK Index-Tracking PEP	0.50%	74.83%	
Standard & Poor's Micro 52 PEP	1.00%	72.22%	
Investment Income Fund	0.50%	71.49%	
Investment Income Fund	0.50%	70.44%	
Investment Income Fund	0.50%	70.44%	
Investment Income Fund	0.50%	70.44%	

Legal & General UK Index-Tracking PEP

Standard & Poor's Micro 52 PEP

Investment Income Fund

no doubt Sir Christopher is rather reluctant to cut the rate. At a time of falling interest rates, savings high yields are still a good investment appeal. The dividend reflected to be paid out offers a handy prop for those that over the years, Allied forces have been tipped money and bid higher. And the shareholders have seen the value of the stock rise.

Those ended up with cash on the day, it could suffer the same fate with the shares so near to their low the Allied underwriters should be brought to an end.

World a
my?

whatever they wish. Many also keep the day in small ways, a visit here or gathering information there.

People of this kind need a little time when it is normal when the investment. You should

be optimistic about the prospects of a

small sum or less, with far broad

investments

There are also signs that a

group of ethically and

socially responsible entrepreneurs

are now being

successfully offering shares

in their

newly formed

company

and the voluntary

sector

10/APPOINTMENTS

TEL: 0171 293 2222

BANKING, FINANCE, ACCOUNTANCY

BUSINESS REVIEW
The Independent, 3 March 1999

FAX: 0171 293 2505

A major European Bank is seeking a South East Asian High Yield Analyst to assist its High Yield Capital Markets team in London to facilitate the origination, structuring, pricing and launch of high yield bonds.

The Role:
Provision of board support on all aspects of the high yield business, including:

- Assistance in the preparation of memoranda/presentations.
- Qualitative & quantitative analysis of new issue opportunities.
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A strong academic background (minimum degree level); Excellent political/economic/financial market knowledge of South East Asia and local market contacts; A minimum of 2 years previous research and analysis experience in the region.

This position offers excellent career prospects in an international environment with a competitive remuneration package including the usual banking benefits.

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Green Line Investor Services, wholly owned by The Toronto-Dominion Financial Group is seeking exceptional personnel to support their aggressive expansion in the U.K. Ranked as one of the world's leading execution only brokers, Green Line continues its global expansion with the recent acquisition of Sharemarket, one of the UK's leading execution only brokers.

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Salary will be at market levels with typical banking benefits.

To apply, please send full CV to PO Box 13020, The Independent, Classified Recruitment, 17th Floor, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL. Please respond by 31st March 1999.

Experienced Analyst

A major international investment bank seeks an experienced analyst to work within its London office. The candidate must have the following: degree in a finance or economics related subject; professional economic market experience; experience of the analytical and quantitative markets. Particularly first hand knowledge of and experience in emerging markets in Eastern Europe and/or Southern Africa; proven skills in analytical research and report writing. Fluency in foreign languages would be advantageous. Compensation will be commensurate with experience, starting at £27,000 per annum. Please send your CV and details to Box number 13024.

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Monday	Wednesday	Sunday
IT, Science, Engineering	Finance, Legal, Secretarial	Public, General
Media, Marketing, Sales	Education, Graduate	

THE INDEPENDENT

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The Crown Prosecution Service is the Government Department responsible for the prosecution of criminal cases in Magistrates' and Crown Courts in England and Wales.

We are seeking to recruit lawyers to fill a number of Crown Prosecutor vacancies in branches in Sussex, Kent and Hampshire on a permanent basis. Candidates who are approved by the selection panel but not appointed to a current vacancy will be placed on a waiting list and may be offered future appointments on a permanent or temporary basis as additional vacancies arise. Both full and part-time posts are available and a flexible working hours scheme is in position.

As a Crown Prosecutor you will review and, where appropriate, prosecute criminal cases. You will also advise the police on matters relating to criminal cases. In each case you review, you will consider whether there is sufficient evidence and, if there is, whether the public interest requires a prosecution.

Details of the competences required for the Level C posts are contained in the application pack. Generally, applicants will need excellent advocacy and organisational skills, together with the ability to work effectively within a team. Sound judgement and the capacity to work under pressure are essential.

Applicants will require at least 2 years post qualification experience in criminal law to be considered for Level C2 posts. This together with the individual's knowledge and skill levels will determine whether they are considered for appointment to Level C1 or C2.

For further information and an application form please telephone Rebecca Phillips on 01483 882631 or Donna Flarry on 01483 882636.

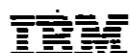
Completed applications must be received by 8th March 1999. Interviews will take place during April '99.

The Crown Prosecution Service is an Equal Opportunities Employer and positively encourages applications from suitably qualified/eligible people regardless of sex, race and disability.



Crown Prosecution Service - Working in the interests of justice

THE INDEPENDENT



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The role will be to develop sales and distribution of the range of products in key on and off trade accounts throughout the UK. Responsibilities to include presenting products to key wholesalers, sales teams and bar staff; organising and implementing tailor-made promotions for customers and samplings for trade and consumers.

The ideal candidate will be pro-active, well organised and a strong communicator. The person should be well presented at all times and be free to travel. Conversational French an advantage.

Please send your CV and salary details in the first instance to the Sales & Marketing Director on 0171 536 0360 or telephone on 0171 536 0361.

No Agencies

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IT, Science, Engineering	Finance, Legal, Secretarial	Public, General
Media, Marketing, Sales	Education, Graduate	

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Who's going to miss a tiny little million?

EVERY MORNING for the past week, I have woken up at 6am, convinced that what has roused me was not my alarm clock but the front door being kicked in.

I've even stopped ordering delivery pizzas that way I know that if the door-bell rings it's either Jehovah's Witnesses or the fraud squad - and who wants to speak to any of them?

This is not mere paranoia, I'd like to point out. After all, I did spend hours and hours sitting next to the ghastly Neil on the way back from New York, the same ghastly Neil who was picked up for questioning at the airport by men in rumpled grey suits. If I'd listened to a word

he'd said on the journey, instead of doing flower arrangements in my head, I might well be a useful witness.

By the time I stumbled blearily into the office, the news had already hit the City. Laura pounced on me before I'd even had a coffee.

"You'll never guess," she said triumphantly, and I couldn't bear to spoil her fun by saying I could, so I let her continue. "It's Neil. Horrible, horrible Neil has been arrested along with two of his colleagues. Apparently they had some scheme going that was going to cream two million out of the bank's coffers."

So, I thought, more victims of our

get-rich-quick culture. It is an unwritten rule that at every dinner party you attend, at least one person has to tell you that they're planning to make a fortune and retire at 35.

Most of them are aiming to do it by devoting their every waking moment to some utterly depressing American financial institution. I bet they buy lottery tickets every week, though, just to be on the safe side.

Then the years go by and they're doing very nicely, thank you, but not that well - not retire-at-35 well - and they start to panic.

Another five years in the City will drive them insane, and they

have to do something to escape. And that's when the temptation becomes unbearable. After all, they think, there's so much money washing around this place, who's going to miss a tiny little million?

Then the phones began ringing. First there was Peter the Heavy Breather, who sounded as if he was hyperventilating with all the excitement.

"Did you hear?" he panted. "I can't believe it. Five million pounds. Apparently it was an insurance scam." Then he rushed off to give all his other contacts the news.

Next up was Belgian Philippe

with the chocolate-smooth voice: "Well, I know you never trusted him," he purred.

"But even you must be surprised that he would try to defraud a pension company out of £10m."

I'd hardly put the phone down before Jane rang, and I told her my part in the story, and she commiserated and told me that the word round her place was that it was £20m, and it involved some wheeze with futures.

"It'll be £100m and rippling on the Queen next," I muttered to Laura. "I wish we knew the real story."

But there was nothing in the papers the next day, or the next, or

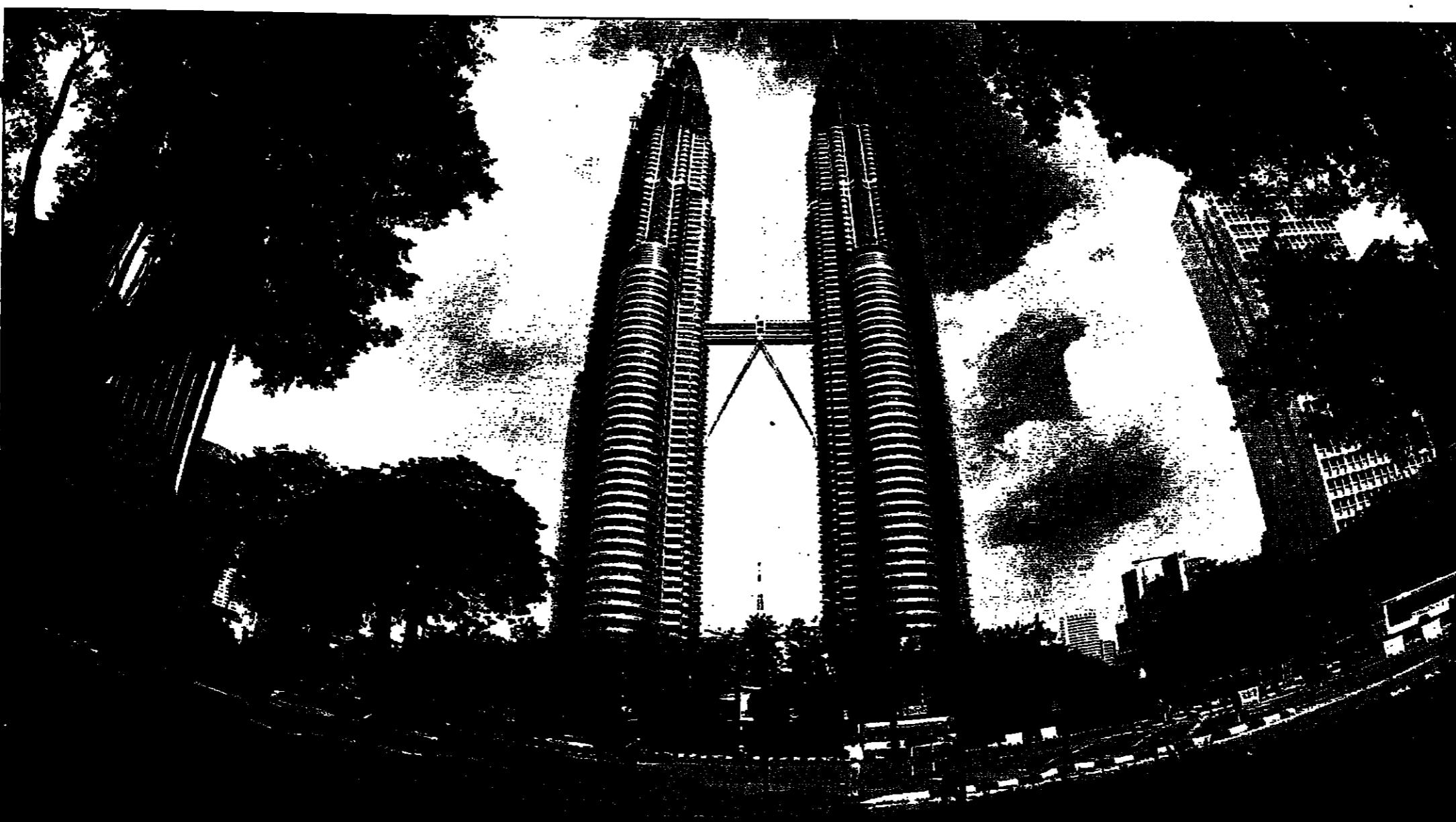
the next - nothing to banish my nightmares.

Then, at lunchtime today, Laura suddenly stabbed the *Standard* and squeaked, "It's here! Listen: 'Neil... blah blah...' questioned over the past week... blah blah..." The three men, who will be formally charged next week, were arrested after £100,000 went missing from their employer's coffers. The managing director said, "This was a particularly pointless and amateurish attempt to defraud the company. Even a child could have spotted it" - only £100,000 after all!

"Well, there's a relief," I said. "At least no one will want to make a film about it..."

THE TRADER

They're doing well but not retire-at-35 well and they start to panic. That's when the temptation kicks in



Once a symbol of the tiger economies, since the crash of 1997 Kuala Lumpur's Petronas Towers have instead underlined the need for competent risk management (AP Photo/Mike Fiala)

Manage risk, protect rewards

BY ROGER TRAPP

AS A MOMENTARY blip is a tempting way to regard the fraud figures published last week by the accountancy firm KPMG. That serious fraud more than doubled over the year to £279m is serious enough, but it comes at a time of growing concern about business's ability to manage risk of all sorts.

Such worries have been most graphically illustrated by the financial crisis that brought the tiger economies of the Far East crashing to earth in 1997, before ripping through other emerging economies, and the near-collapse of the speculative investment fund Long-Term Credit Management. But the globalisation of business and the increasing complexity of many of its operations mean that it is a problem not limited to isolated incidents.

Recent research from another accountancy firm, Ernst & Young, indicates that senior executives are increasingly concerned about fi-

nancial risk. Two-thirds of organisations across Europe said risk management was an important issue, with 97 per cent claiming to have assessed their major risks. But fewer than half expressed confidence in their risk control systems. Only 10 per cent were completely confident.

Even organisations that appear to be among the most sophisticated in the world find it easy to underestimate the risks in emerging markets or fledgling financial instruments.

For financial institutions a significant part of the problem is that their industry changes so fast. They need to make improvements to their risk-management systems just to keep pace. At the same time, they cannot abandon risk altogether, since a large part of their business is about assessing and taking risks.

But this is also true for non-financial businesses, since risk is a key element in the investment decisions made by shareholders and directors. Accordingly, while leading banks can be expected to limit their future exposure to emerging markets - just as they reduced their lending to the property sector after the sharp downturn at the beginning of this decade - they cannot abandon risk altogether.

Instead, organisations are tackling the issue in two ways. First, they are making greater use of models and detailed analysis of past events. Effective as these can be in reducing the likelihood of poor decisions, they will never provide an absolute answer. Michael Foot, head of financial supervision at the Financial Services Authority, points out:

"But investors of all kinds are also trying to find out more about the operations in which they are seeking to invest, hence the growing interest in international accounting standards, so that investors can be more certain that companies are performing how they say they are.

But there is a related issue which has come to a head in the UK with the publication at the end of last year of the Stock Exchange's Combined Code on Corporate Governance, with its requirement that boards of companies identify key business risks or review how they have been identified and endorse the conclusions.

This has led to much debate about the extent to which management will be prepared to report on their effectiveness and whether external auditors will feel qualified to comment upon such statements.

A survey recently carried out on behalf of the management consultancy Tillinghast-Towers Perrin found that most finance directors in leading companies, while recognising the importance of risk manage-

ment, were worried about confidentiality and the costs of enhanced reporting on risk.

But the Institute of Internal Auditors is trying to drive home to organisations the need for effective controls. Though this idea has negative connotations, Richard Gossage, the NatWest executive who is the current president, sees a role for internal auditors in challenging their colleagues on their activities.

Mr Gossage believes he and his counterparts in other organisations can add value - in the current parlance - if they can encourage executives to take a more professional view of risk management. As evidence, he points to the arrival in certain financial institutions of operational risk management functions. And he hopes others will be encouraged to join them by a brochure his organisation has published under the title "10 minutes is all it takes", with the aim of setting out the

benefits of having an effective internal audit department.

But organisations are not starting to go down this route just because they are being compelled to. They are starting to see sound commercial reasons for doing so, not least because companies with such systems in place are starting to be seen as better credit risks.

As Mr Gossage says: "Assessing and controlling risks is not a flash in the pan. It's a key driver for maintaining sound corporate governance and competitive advantage."

Nevertheless, for all his enthusiasm, there are still plenty of grounds for concern. At the FSA, for instance, Mr Foot points to barriers to effective internal controls, including the difficulty of managing increasingly far-flung and complex organisations. The collapse of Barings has shown how easy it is for responsibility for certain activities to slip between the cracks.

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Pusztai's results

Sir: Media coverage of GM foods and the Pusztai affair has been characterised by inaccurate reports that have usually reflected a strong bias for or against GM foods. We would like to try to clarify some of the key issues.

Shortly after Dr Arpad Pusztai's interview on *World in Action* it was suggested that his experiments had only tested the effects of potato spiked with ConA lectin. He was then suspended from his post at the Rowett Institute and an audit was instituted according to Medical Research Council guidelines, an act that could be interpreted as implying fraud.

It is clear from the report of this audit, conducted in August 1998 but only recently and incompletely released (<http://www.rrri.sari.ac.uk/press>), that experiments involving transgenic potatoes containing the gene for the snowdrop lectin (GNA) had already been performed at the time of Dr Pusztai's television interview. Although Dr Pusztai's suspension was subsequently lifted, he was prevented from continuing his experiments on the transgenic potatoes.

It was this aggressive treatment that led ourselves and other scientists to allow our names to be included in a memorandum defending Dr Pusztai, whom we know to be an honourable and careful scientist. If the Rowett Institute had simply released a statement that the data was preliminary and allowed the work to continue, much of the confusion would have been prevented.

It has been widely stated that all lectins are toxic. They are not. They are ubiquitous carbohydrate-binding proteins. All mammalian cells and all plant nuts, seeds and bulbs, including many foodstuffs, contain lectins. Some of these, red kidney beans for example, are toxic and need to be destroyed by heat before consumption but others such as tomato lectin are apparently harmless when eaten raw.

Many of these plant lectins serve an insecticidal or antifungal role in the plant. The snowdrop lectin (GNA) binds to a sugar called mannose which is virtually absent from the lining of the mammalian intestine but is extensively expressed in the intestine of sap-sucking insects. It is therefore plausible that expression of this lectin in food plants might render them unattractive to insects but safe for human consumption, particularly if the food (potato) is always cooked.

The experiments performed by Dr Pusztai, whatever their results, would not imply that all genetically modified foods were unsafe. The message Dr Pusztai was trying to put across was simply that such foods require particularly careful testing before release. Some will prove toxic or otherwise unsatisfactory and be discarded.

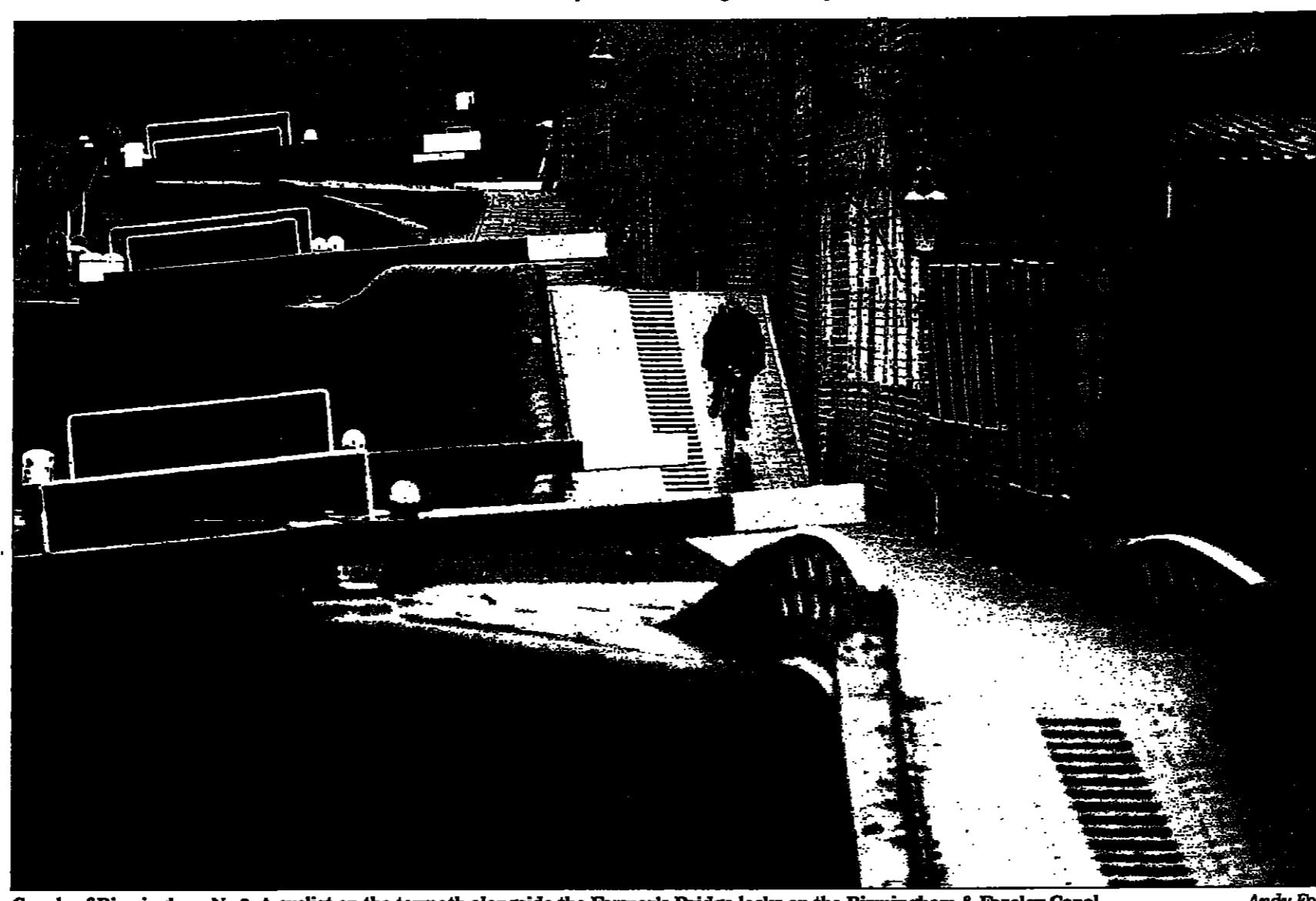
The fact that Dr Pusztai has been barred from continuing his experiments has resulted in an unsatisfactory situation in which his data, although interesting, remain preliminary and further experimentation will be needed before final conclusions can be drawn.

Professor JONATHAN RHODES
Dr RONALD FINN
Department of Medicine
University of Liverpool

Baffled by the euro

Sir: We pay 650 MPs about £30m annually in salaries to make decisions on our behalf. Why, therefore, is it necessary to have a referendum on the one topic that the man on the Clapham omnibus probably knows next to nothing about - the economic pros and cons of joining the single currency?

In the only other referendum that this country has had, people voted "no" to Europe for a variety of nonsensical reasons such as that they thought they would be forbidden to buy traditional fish and chips, that they would not be allowed to take afternoon tea, or that they would be forced to become Roman Catholics. It would



Canals of Birmingham No 3: A cyclist on the towpath alongside the Farmer's Bridge locks on the Birmingham & Fazeley Canal

Andy Fox

seem that similar nonsensical notions, rather than the good of the country, would colour the way in which people voted in the EMU referendum.

If not that, then they would vote in the way that Australo-American and Canadian newspaper proprietors, who appear to have a vested interest in keeping Britain at odds with Europe, told them to vote.

Some people would vote "no" because they consider that joining EMU would result in a loss of "sovereignty", but how can a country whose foreign policy and some of its domestic policy - on drugs, for example - is dictated by America call itself sovereign?

Perhaps we should scrap the idea of a referendum and let the politicians decide, or the best advice from industry and economists, whether or not to join the single currency. Why have a dog and do the barking yourself?

C CROFTON-SLEIGH
Surrey, Kent

Sir: Although heartily agreeing with you about the necessity of joining economic and monetary union, I cannot agree with your leading article (1 March) that a referendum now would give a positive result.

Last summer this branch of the European Movement held 13 information stalls in various towns, handing out brochures and look-alike euro currency notes, as well as answering questions about the euro.

Although many younger people and students were for our joining EMU, the lack of knowledge - or even wanting to know - among older people was horrifying. Pensioners who were in the last war seemed to think it was a German play to take over the UK! A poll last September showed that whereas 54 per cent of citizens in mainland Europe were well informed about the euro, only 8 per cent of Britons were.

To produce a "yes" vote in a referendum will need the Government to send information throughout the kingdom.

particularly in England. We shall be out and about again this year campaigning for a positive referendum result, despite Hugh Dykes's derogatory remarks (letter, 20 February) about the European Movement.

PAMELA WARD
Vice-President
Huddersfield Branch
European Movement
Slaithwaite, West Yorkshire

Sir: I too have made inquiry on cheque payments in euros for my own business (letter, 25 February).

European countries have different standard financial sizes for cheques. So cheques in euros, even from one Euroland country to another, still suffer the "negotiation fee" cost. It seems this amounts to a handling charge because machinery will only cope with the local cheque sizes. Can this be holding back a European clearing system?

Banks of course are reluctant to upgrade machinery as they want to eliminate cheques but fail to make electronic transfer of small sums cost-effective. "Negotiating" a cheque can cost £12 to £15 per

cheque. I use an organisation - not a bank - that manages to do it for £3.

SHARON BOWLES
Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire

Grandparent crisis

Sir: Recently the daughters of three of my closest friends have each had a first child.

Two were born to teenage mothers with partners (occasionally) who are obsessively jealous and violent. The other was born to a mother in her thirties and what can only be described as a serial father: for this is his sixth child by a number of different women, some of whom he married.

Thirty years ago we campaigned for family planning for all. We thought, in our naivety, that if every child became a wanted child you could in one stroke eliminate child abuse and neglect, eliminate poverty, homelessness... It hasn't exactly worked out like that.

I have no reason to believe that my friends' grandchildren are anything other than wanted. I also know that these particular babies will be protected, cared for and loved by an extended family.

especially their grandparents. But it is chilling to think that the backup a stable grand-parents' home can provide is a resource which is running out. When these babies have their own children where are their grandparents?

How do I congratulate my friends? Every child is a gift, a cause for rejoicing. Yet for too many children the strands in the cradle that is their birthright are snapping.

YVONNE CRAIG
Bedford

Hype grand prix

Sir: Kelvin MacKenzie is in danger of believing his own hype when he claims to have "broadcasting rights" to the Australian Grand Prix ("You're Through to Talk Radio", 25 February). Radio 5 Live has exclusive commentary rights to all Formula One Grands Prix - including the Australian. Talk Radio has news access only. Mr MacKenzie's happy little band of listeners should not be misled.

The idea that we are throwing the money into sports rights to get the audiences is simply wrong.

Sir: We were delighted to read that we had won the "competition" for the new home for the Greater London Authority (leading article, 26 February). Regrettably, whilst the process of selection was point of farce it did not extend to appointing an architect who had not submitted a design.

MARCO GOLDSCHMIED
Managing Director
Richard Rogers Partnership
London W6

With the help sometimes of European public-service broadcasters, we have brought sports coverage at a modest cost to UK licence-payers. And it is not just sport that drives audiences: 5 Live's most popular programme is the weekday *Breakfast Show*.

MIKE LEWIS
Controller Radio Sports Rights
BBC Radio 5 Live
London W12

Banning bias

Sir: In the aftermath of the Lawrence enquiry, we should look at how progressive companies are rather than how guilty.

I worked in South Africa running cultural change, communication and industrial relations programmes for major employers. On my return, in 1985, I was surprised at how little equal opportunities had advanced, and the lack of specific targets for senior management positions, training and monitoring.

I recently ranked 18 major retail, financial and leisure companies on the priority they gave to their employees, the wider community and the environment. Some 72 per cent had equal opportunity policies, but only two, the Royal Bank of Scotland and Nat West, specified the present imbalance. The Royal Bank of Scotland says 17 per cent of middle and 9 per cent of senior managers are women, whilst Nat West states that 20 per cent of its managers are women, and 2.5 per cent from the ethnic minorities.

Only four companies had women executive directors, and none had an ethnic minority director. This does not make business sense, as the majority of their customers and employees are women, and many products are targeted at women and the ethnic minorities.

Changing company culture, like changing the wider society, takes time and commitment, and leadership from the top. It needs role models in senior positions, and it makes business sense.

JANET SALMON
Richmond, Surrey

Don't ring your GP

Sir: It would be far more reasonable to offer the NHS Direct service of telephone advice by nurses as optional rather than totally denying access to one's GP (report, 27 February). When the NHS's litigation costs are at an all-time high, it would be interesting to see the impact of NHS Direct on negligence claims.

Given the known pitfalls of giving advice or diagnosing without access to the patient's records, should not the Government try to reassure the public before imposing restrictions on patients' fundamental rights?

DR JAYANTHA ILANGARATNE
Beverley, North Humberside

Sir: The suggestion that patients would no longer have direct access to their GP is quite frightening.

Access to a caring GP at the end of the telephone, who knew the patient well, made it possible for me to care for my increasingly frail and disabled husband at home to within two days of his death.

How many mothers with an obviously sick child would be able to call up sufficiently precise medical vocabulary to persuade a previously unknown nurse of the need for a home visit? If a mistake is made, the doctor is not called and the child is damaged, who will be legally responsible? If this is the kind of service to be provided, more people will struggle to take out private insurance.

LILY G W TURNER
St Albans, Hertfordshire

Sir: Those with impaired hearing are increasingly excluded from the machinery of a society rushing into telephone contact for everything. This will become intolerable if matters of health have to be communicated to a stranger who knows nothing of one's medical history, perhaps speaking in dialect and located hundreds of miles away in some gigantic Babel.

Strong voices are difficult for the hearing-impaired to handle and a common feature of centralised call-handling is people with poor elocution and often unfamiliar accents who think the mark of competence is how rapidly they can spew out a torrent of words. Mention that you are deaf and they shout at you or lose patience.

As hospitals are already desperately short of nurses, where are the qualified staff to be found to extend NHS Direct? It is easy to see how staff shortage could lead to menu-switching: "If you have pain in your right buttock press 2." The mind boggles.

GRAHAM HOLDEN
Budleigh Salterton, Devon

Sir: Patients with long-term illness need to have direct access to their doctors: simply so they can "help themselves". Many millions of people who live with illness for life, and for whom there is no cure, cope best when they know they can get access to quick advice from their doctor, when they know they need it.

The proposals to channel all requests through nurses make an assumption that living with serious, long-term illness needs the same approach as coughs and colds.

Introducing such ideas without consultation with patient organisations does not seem to be in keeping with the emerging patient partnership strategy. We support NHS Direct but this is an unbalanced and could be an inappropriate development.

JUDY WILSON
Director
The Long-term Medical Conditions Alliance
London EC1

Dame Iris's XI

Sir: Miles Kington ("Golden Cricketing Moments with Dame Iris Murdoch", 25 February) reports Murdoch's comparison of field-placing to planning a novel. I find that on the first page of her *Book of the Brotherhood* she introduces the reader to exactly 11 named characters. QED?

RICHARD FIDDIAN
Herpenden, Hertfordshire

The volatile and vivacious world of the adjective

"I ALWAYS feel sorry for the word 'pyrrhic'. 'Pyrrhic' is a really neat little adjective, but it's never going to get very far up the ratings. Do you know why? Because it only has one usage. Only a victory can be pyrrhic. Nothing else can. You can't have a pyrrhic election or a pyrrhic dinner party. There's no other way you can use the word 'pyrrhic' other than with 'victory', so it doesn't crop up that often. No wonder it doesn't even make the top 1,000 in the world..."

Hold on, hold on! Who is our arcan informant and what on earth is he about? Ratings for adjectives? Top 1,000 adjective lists? Is someone mad?

No, far from it. Tennis players and golfers are not the only ones who have their own world rankings. It's beginning to happen at discrete

parts of speech as well. And Oscar Beussberger, who is head of ATP (Adjective Trend Plotting), is in charge of keeping an eye on the mercurial changes in adjective popularity. At the ATP headquarters, which are situated in a prestigious suburb of Oxford, they are busy night and day computing the comparative standing of various adjectives, as part of the ongoing process of measuring the speed at which language changes.

"Mercurial" - quite nice. "Situate" - very nice! And I'm glad you managed to avoid the temptation to use the word "insightful", which is an American import which should never have been allowed to talk a foothold here.

"Of course," says Oscar Beussberger, "as a scientist of language I should just be observational and not - are you ready for this horrible adjective? - judgemental. But

of our favourite adjectives you've got in... Oh, yes, quite a few from the World Standings there! For instance, 'arcane' (which has come up from nowhere to number 159 over the last 10 years), 'prestigious' (which hardly existed 40 years ago and is now up to 188) and 'ongoing' (which reached a dizzy 36 a few years back and is now down to 143 and still slipping).

"Mercurial" - quite nice. "Situate" - very nice! And I'm glad you managed to avoid the temptation to use the word "insightful", which is an American import which should never have been allowed to talk a foothold here.

"Of course," says Oscar Beussberger, "as a scientist of language I should just be observational and not - are you ready for this horrible adjective? - judgemental. But

blamed for preferring okapi to rats? I think not. Can I be blamed for liking 'insipid' more than 'squamous'? Surely not..."

But how do adjectives become popular? What makes an epithet emerge from dusty years of disuse into the limelight?

"Well, one way is through boredom. People get bored with saying 'bland' all the time. Then they find that 'anodyne' means roughly the same thing and sounds grander, so they start using that instead. 'Solipsistic' means, roughly, egotistical on a grand scale, so that has started to creep in instead of 'selfish'.

"Incidentally, I was very impressed to see you use the word 'discrete'. That's almost died out now, because people have forgotten the difference between 'discrete' and 'discreet'. 'Discrete' is

driving 'discrete' out, just as minks crowd out the otter."

Oscar Beussberger has seen adjectives come and go in his time, rising and falling in the lists. Once "psychedelic" was in the top 10. Now it's not even in the top 1,000. "Epiphany" has come from nowhere recently, whereas "cathartic" is ebbing. "Holistic" is right up there, which is good work, especially considering that the word didn't even exist 100 years ago.

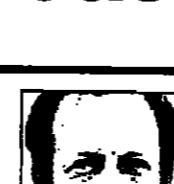
"Formulic" is a word much used by lazy TV executives, as if there were any other kind of TV executive," says Oscar. "Nobody else uses it. But it's still managed to creep up to No 125.

"Feral" was very trendy for a while, but is fading now. "Iconic" is very big, of course, and so is "ironic" - actually, it's quite odd when you

get two words very similar but both thriving, like "ironic" and "iconic". One usually tends to drive the other out. Because of the bawdy familiarity of the word "fornicale", you don't see the word "fornicate" much, although it's the only word to use of ants swarming. Similarly, ever since "homophobe" hit the top 100, we haven't heard much of "homophonic".

But Oscar Beussberger's chief work at the moment is putting the finishing touches to the Adjective of the Century Poll, in which voting takes place next week. Which will be the literate public's choice for top adjective of the age? Will "pristine" carry it off? Has "dysfunctional" got a real chance? How about "entrepreneurial"?

All the runners tomorrow, plus a voting form!



MILES KINGTON

'Formulaic' is a word much used by lazy TV executives - as if there were any other kind of TV executive," says Oscar. "Nobody else uses it. But it's still managed to creep up to No 125.

"Feral" was very trendy for a while, but is fading now. "Iconic" is very big, of course, and so is "ironic" - actually, it's quite odd when you

we must not be kept in the dark when we travel

Don't ring your GP

It would be far more reasonable to offer the NHS Doctors of telephone advice and support as indicated in the report. **PAUL TURNER** Why not? The suggestion costs are not that high. It would be better for the layout of NHS services.

Given the known practice of giving advice or diagnosis over the phone to the patient, surely should not the Government be to receive the public benefit of providing central helpline services?

DEVIANTIA HANGAR *London, North West*

The suggestion that patients would no longer have direct access to their GP is quite frightening.

Access to a central helpline of the telephone, who are often patient well, make it possible for us to care for my mother, who has dementia and disabled husband at home within two days of his death.

How many mothers would be seriously sick child would be to call up sufficiently informed medical availability to a previously unknown number, care for a home visit? If no one is made, the doctor is not found and the child is tortured who will be legally responsible? If these are kind of service to be provided, more people will struggle to get personal insurance.

DALE G W TURNER *Malvern, Herefordshire*

Mr. There with injured patients are increasingly available through the machinery of a service, telephone contact to emergency. This will become increasingly matters of health have to be communicated to the patient. Shows nothing of the patient. Patients perhaps are not as hardy as they used to be in winter grippe.

Strange circumstances in the bearing in mind that a question of a question feature of the health handling is the best way to prevention and other health aspects who think the best way to prevention is to have a good diet and exercise.

It is important to have a good diet and exercise.

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PANDORA

STEVIE WONDER (pictured) can fly - official. We know it must be true because President Clinton said it was. During a White House dinner for the Ghanaian leader, Jerry Rawlings, Clinton revealed that Rawlings, whose career was strictly Air Force, had once let Wonder pilot his personal 10-seat Fokker jet.

"There was sensitivity in his hands," Rawlings added. "People who can see could not fly as well as he did." Rawlings added that a French camera crew captured the fact on video. But Wonder asked them to can the tape because "some people might think he wasn't blind".

AN EAGLE-EYED reader noticed that during the Celtic Manor Hotel lunch this week, where Prince Charles conspicuously tucked into a slice or two of Welsh beef, HRH sported the tie of the Welsh Black Cattle Society, which sent the heir a joint of meat for his 50th birthday. This stunt has the dabs of the Palace spin doctor Mark Boland all over it; saucy courtiers say he's trying to move public perception of Charles from being a Natural Law type who chats with plants to a red-blooded carnivore flirting with lawlessness.

WHAT WAS that little clicking sound? Why, it was an account closing. It's a sound the Royal Bank of Scotland may be hearing more of in future. We can only speculate about what the normally canny Scots financiers were thinking of when they hooked up to create a direct banking operation with the American televangelist Pat Robertson - but it certainly wasn't the bank's public profile. Robertson is leader of the 700 Club, a satan-obsessed, gun-lovin', queer-hatin' Christian fundamentalist pressure group. What next? The Co-op offering discounts for customers holidaying in Burma?

LISTENERS CATCHING Radio 4's inter-uterine discussion this week between the feminist grande dame Germaine Greer and the tough bitch queen Julie Burchill surely revelled in the show's sisterly solidarity. Julie ticked off Germaine for not condemning female circumcision. Burchill: "Without your clitoris, you're only half a woman." Greer: "A clitoris isn't half what a woman is." Burchill: "Maybe not to you." They moved on to hirsute females, with Germaine regretting that her own god-daughter

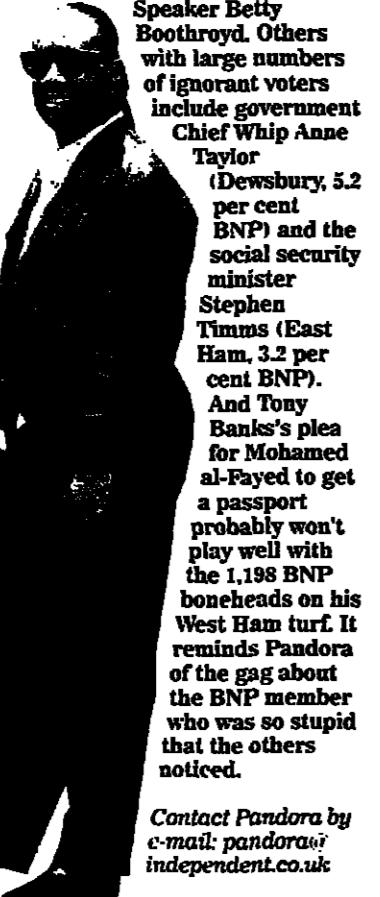
should feel embarrassed about her hairy upper lip. "Immac," Julie counselled. "Deal with it and forget about it." A silence fell. "Try Arianna Huffington with a depilatory," said Germaine, cattily. "Have you seen her?" "Covered in it," agreed Julie. "Like a little monkey..." They sniggered. Does the famously vain former Ms Stassinoopolous know her hairs are the subject of such levity among the higher feminists?

A DISTRESSING trend on these shores: thirtysomethings taking PlayStation to dinner parties. Apparently these socially confused individuals find the prospect of putting Crash Bandicoot through his paces more exciting than eating, chatting, flirting or any of the other stuff people do around the table. Sony will launch a palm-sized PlayStation later this year. (It's already being dubbed the 21st-century Gameboy), so addicts of Pool Sharks will be able to play in their pockets while mouthing bland encomia about the hostess's culinary expertise.

"LET ALL the racists among us move to that shabby little hole called Eltham," urges the tabloid columnist Tony Parsons. But is Eltham really the natural home of the nation's bigots? No - there are only 491 BNP voters there, 1.1 per cent of the electorate. Pandora can reveal that Britain's scummiest constituency is West Bromwich West. The National Democrats, a National Front offshoot, garnered 4,181 crosses at the 1997 election to take 11.4 per cent of the poll. The seat's incumbent is Speaker Betty Boothroyd. Others with large numbers of ignorant voters include government Chief Whip Anne Taylor (Dewsbury, 5.2 per cent BNP) and the social security minister Stephen Timms (East Ham, 3.2 per cent BNP).

And Tony Banks's plea for Mohammed al-Fayed to get a passport probably won't play well with the 1,198 BNP boneheads on his West Ham turf. It reminds Pandora of the gag about the BNP member who was so stupid that the others noticed.

Contact Pandora by e-mail: pandora@independent.co.uk



IT'S A tale of slap and fickle - and it's bound to end in tears. Madonna is rumoured to be the new face of Max Factor. Yes, that company for middle-of-the-road women in the middle of their lives with middles that have gone missing, are to have as their aspirational slap model a woman who, at a recent awards ceremony, looked like a geisha girl with bags of marble where her arms should be.

It's an irony of the make-up game that while millions of women have a lifelong loyalty to certain products (my aunt, aged 83, is struggling now that a foundation, called Vérité, which she has used for 65 years, is virtually extinct), the cosmetic companies are notoriously fickle in their choice of a face to push their paint. The models come and go, some at great cost. Yardeley recently went bust having spent £2m literally tying Linda Evangelista up in knots for a bondage advertising campaign. (Whoa away those wrinkles?)

The reasons fashion commentators have given so far for Max Factor's choice of Madonna are varied and contradictory, but what they all help to illustrate is the advertising industry's hopeless, not to mention

hysterical, misunderstanding of how to appeal to that eight-million-strong female army, aged between 35 to 55, known inelegantly as the baby-boomer generation. It was all so easy in the Fifties. Then, there were two ways of persuading women to part with their perfumed pound. The first was to treat womanhood as a series of dangerous ailments - haitus, unwanted hair, and most dreaded of all,

underarm BO. "Are you really lovely to love?" asked a 1953 ad for creamy, smooth Fresh Antiperspirant. Now, of course, we know there's a touch more to amour than a stick of deodorant. The second much-loved pitch was to promise a man: "She's Lovely! She's Engaged! She uses Pond's Cold Cream!"

Women today treat hygiene problems as one of life's minor hurdles rather than as a genocidal threat to the weaker sex. The older generation are too cynical to expect Mr Right to emerge, like a genie, from a bottle of foundation. Instead, they expect minor miracles. It's not a famous face that has the pulling power but the promise that a product can hold back time; erase lines; cancel out crow's feet. Only mad women believe it, of course, but it signals that you're making a bit of an effort.

"Bit of an effort" is the crucial phrase Madonna is shorthand for wholesale obsession. And that, I suspect, few baby boomers find attractive in a woman who's supposed to be an aspirational role model. She and Cher personify the caught-in-aspiric "youth" that requires hours of exercise, self-denial and no booze.

Basically, for most baby boomers, life's too full and fraught for that.

One commentator has suggested that Madonna's attraction to Max Factor is her "ability to constantly reinvent herself". But that's no magnet for the older woman, either. They've been there and done that. They've mutated through Sixties false eyelashes and Seventies glam-rock to, in the middle of their lives, anything which makes them feel at ease. Of course, they're willing to make amendments to the basic plan - but nothing radical. That's not timidity - it's faith in the tried and tested. So, in the magazine makeover of a woman's face and wardrobe, it's sometimes hard to see the change. And often, the "before" is

Isabella Rossellini was sacked as the Lancôme woman because she was deemed too old. Yet her appeal was precisely right. She looked comfortable with her age, maturing gracefully, in control and nobody's fool. Now we have Madonna, billeted by the pushers of pan-stick as "strong" and "confident" but, to some, conveying the opposite impression. Behind the money-making exhibitionism, she appears



YVONNE ROBERTS

The model is a woman who looks like a geisha girl with bags of marble where her arms should be

A little bit of slap and fickle

The Third Way will drive Europe into a slump



KEN LIVINGSTONE
The so-called American economic revival has simply created low-paid, low-skill, casual jobs

TONY BLAIR's intervention at his meeting with other left-wing European heads of government was clear and firm. Europe can adapt to the future only if it mimics the United States' more open and dynamic economy.

This will not have come as a surprise to comrades Jospin and Schröder, who have become used to the Prime Minister's lectures about the need for a Third Way for Europe. The British Government remains convinced that the reason Europe's unemployment rate is so unacceptably high is because of the dead hands of regulation, high taxes, redistribution and excessive public spending.

If only Europe would slim down its welfare state to British levels and cut corporation tax to something closer to America's, Europe too could experience a long economic boom with tens of millions of new jobs created. Of course, we should also have to accept laxer standards of environmental protection and food hygiene and put up with larger doses of hormones and genetically modified crops, but this would merely bring Europe into line with the existing demands of the American-dominated World Trade Organisation.

When we look at the American economy, there is no denying that it is experiencing its longest post-war boom and the lowest levels of unemployment in a generation. The question we have to ask, however, is whether this is because of or in spite of America's low-tax, low-regulation economy. Equally, we need to look beyond bland generalities before we simply echo the Thatcherite refrain about the causes of Europe's high level of unemployment.

If the world is lucky, Alan Greenspan's Federal Reserve Bank and Bill Clinton will be able to manage a soft landing for America's stocks and shares that will snuff out

the economic boom that has so mesmerised Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. If the worst happens and America's stock market spirals out of control, then this will be the final straw that tips the world economy into a re-run of the Thirties. Just why Europe should wish to replicate America's weaknesses is something that will fully require Tony Blair's persuasive skills to explain.

The so-called sickly European economy represents almost a mirror image of the American dream/nightmare. Unlike America, Europe sustains a huge balance of trade surplus and, with the exception of the vastly overvalued British stock market, the rest of Europe's stock markets are not big enough or overheated enough to drag down the real productive strength of the European economy. Europe therefore does not need to be propped up with inflows of funds from Japan or from anywhere else, and as a result is better insulated from global turmoil than the US.

In contrast to America's low-skill jobs boom, Europe has fought to try to preserve high-skill, hi-tech employment and, to sustain this, continues to have a level of investment 25 per cent higher than that of the US. Equally, Europe has avoided the worst excesses of human down-sizing and environmental despoliation that have become a defining characteristic of corporate America.

The gross inequalities of wealth that disfigure Britain and America have been avoided, with Europe's top executives earning substantially less than their Anglo-American counterparts.

Given this record, why are we constantly told that Europe must develop along American lines? There is no doubt that the crisis of high unemployment is Europe's Achilles' heel, but the shocking reason behind

Europe's high unemployment is that it was a deliberately self-inflicted policy decision undertaken in order to prepare for the introduction of the euro. The problem has its historical roots in the collapse of the Weimar Republic and the rise of Nazism in Germany. This led succeeding generations of German politicians to fear a return of the great inflation that they believed opened the way for Hitler's rise to power. The response of Germany's post-war chancellors has been to stamp on the very first signs of inflation.

Normally these tight money policies would have undermined Germany's post-war boom, had it not been for the fact that Germany massively undervalued the mark, thus guaranteeing that its exports would be cheap enough to undercut its British and American rivals throughout the global markets.

As Germany prepared for the introduction of the euro, the undervaluation of the mark was conveniently forgotten in place of the mantra that Germany's success was due to tight money and a firm

grip on inflation. These policies were then imposed on the rest of Europe in the run-up to the introduction of the euro. The result was obvious. European currencies became overvalued, exports were squeezed and unemployment soared. Two years ago, Germany led the rest of Europe in a quiet devolution of their currencies against the pound and the dollar, thus preparing for a boom to coincide with the introduction of the euro.

Sadly, Europe's policy-makers had not foreseen the downswing in the global economy that began in Asia and has now snuffed out Europe's embryonic recovery at just the moment that the independent central bank has come into power. Unless the European Central Bank now dramatically cuts interest rates, Europe faces more unemployment.

It is these massive underlying economic forces that have to be understood if Europe is to tackle the problem of unemployment. Superficial comparisons between Europe and America will lead us into depression, not into a Third Way.



Mr Blair at the European Socialist congress in Milan. Reuters

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The move of *News at Ten* is the most significant milestone yet in a journey that began in the early Nineties. The bridges between us and ITV have come crashing down. There's now more clear water between us than ever before.

We saw ITV move its Sunday evening religious programme

ramme, *Highway*, out of peak time. We've seen the end of *This Week*. We saw a narrowing of the range of programmes to be found in the evening schedule.

And whereas once we could have a sensible conversation with ITV about not chasing each other's Saturday evening in order not to confuse viewers, those conversations have ended. When our schedulers sought a discussion to avoid scheduling clashes between *On This Day* and *The South Bank Show*, ITV wasn't interested.

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Get a grip on reality, Monica



DEBORAH ORR

You'd think Monica had had enough of being a victim, but she will never have enough of it



Monica Lewinsky, left, with Barbara Walters who interviewed her for ABC. Lewinsky talked of her 'dysfunctional family' AP/Courtesy ABC News, Virginia Sherwood

"IT IS a parable of our times, just as Diana was." (Andrew Morton on Monica's Story)

And so it begins. Tonight, Monica Lewinsky's first television interview will be broadcast in the US. Tomorrow morning, extracts from Andrew Morton's book about her will start serialisation on both sides of the Atlantic. Tomorrow evening, an interview by Jon Snow will be screened on *Channel 4 News*. On Friday, Andrew Morton's book about her will hit the streets, and Lewinsky will begin a book tour to publicise it. The rebranding of Monica Lewinsky has begun. It is already working its magic on me.

Until now, I've regarded Monica Lewinsky sympathetically. She was young and attractive and clearly did not know how to control or respect her own sexuality. She embarked on an ill-advised affair with a man who should have known better, but didn't. She was tricked and betrayed by people posing as her friends. She was publicly smeared, slandered and lied about. She had her life as she had imagined it ruined as part of a political witch hunt that wouldn't have gained any currency were it not for one fact: the President of the United States is a sexually predatory hypocrite so obsessed with power that even when he'd become "leader of the free world" he still craved the validation he gained from seducing impressionable young women.

She has been humiliated before the eyes of the world. Now that her ordeal is over (or could be if only she'd let go), Clinton is still President, and she is \$2m in debt.

But she is, so her supporters say, intelligent. An intelligent woman in her position could earn \$2m quite easily. She could grant just one interview to a commercial television network, accept no fee for it, but strike a deal whereby her legal fees are paid off by the television company. In fact, she has received no payment from ABC, which has the rights to tonight's interview. The company will earn \$35m from advertising during the broadcast alone, before they even start to syndicate it around the world. ABC could have wiped out Lewinsky's debt at one fell swoop.

But Lewinsky is clearly, however,

not intelligent enough to have learned anything, either from her own five-year ordeal or from scrutiny of the rest of the life of the last woman to process her life through the agency of Andrew Morton, media photographers and high-profile television interviews. No good can come of this. The early signs are that the entire media fest will be cloying, sentimental, self-pitying and pointless. If Lewinsky wants to put this most sorry of affairs behind her, she is going about it in an extraordinarily counter-intuitive fashion.

First, the US television interview in which Lewinsky reveals to heavy-hitting Barbara Walters, that although she no longer loves President Clinton, and while she is sometimes "angry", she still has "warm feelings" towards him.

Warm feelings? What's wrong with her? Does she imagine that her "Big Guy" returns warm feelings towards "that woman"? Does she think it's all right to be dropped, denied, accused of being a stalker and branded as mentally deranged? If she forgives this man, then that goes a long way towards explaining why the rest of America has found it so easy to do so. It has to be because they're all misogynists, including Lewinsky herself. Not only can

they not tell right from wrong any more, they can't even tell right from left.

During this interview, Lewinsky also apologises for the first time to the "official Clinton women", telling Chelsea that she is also from "a dysfunctional family". That's quite a comfort to Chelsea, I'm sure, and as for Monica's own parents, well, they've been told how dysfunctional they are plenty of times already, and now have therapists to ram that message home to them.

Any further message to other impressionable young girls, like: "don't have affairs with married men with children because generally they use you and dump you, even when they're not president, and it's you who pays the emotional price"; or "when a superior in an office says he'd like to see what's under your skirt, think before you flash your thong, then point out to him that it's none of his business", is conspicuous by its absence.

Learning from your mistakes, and hoping that others might too, is something that a responsible woman might do, and if you take responsibility for yourself, then it's hard to stay a victim. You'd think that Lewinsky might have had enough of being a victim, but instead it's beginning to look like she'll

never have enough of it. That's certainly been the message so far in the newspaper serialisation. From *The Mirror*'s several days of pre-serialisation serialisation, we've already learned that "Monica was a bright, outgoing strong-willed child. Open and friendly, she was popular, but never quite fitted in with the blonde, thin brat pack".

Sorry, what's the message here? Get the peroxide out from an early age, and pick yourself up an eating disorder. Then you'll never become embroiled in a political sex scandal. No, instead the message is that not being blonde and thin is a genuine disability, which could blight your life, just as it has Lewinsky's. What a pity it wasn't Glenn Hoddle who came up with that one. It would then have been greeted with the contempt that it deserves.

Then there's the Jon Snow interview. Lewinsky was able to talk in much greater detail during this interview, due to reporting restrictions which remain in the United States. Lews have already flushed out one exclusive revelation, which is that Lewinsky at one point contemplated suicide during her ordeal. Hurrah! Not only is that a healthy reaction to her situation, but it's also healthy that she only considered suicide. If only her desire for self-

preservation was greater than her feelings of inadequacy. While Diana's feelings of inadequacy did not leave her so soon that she doubted her ability to be first, Princess of Wales then Queen, and to bring up children who would also be monarchs, nor did Lewinsky's disturb her belief - which she still maintains despite the overwhelming evidence to the contrary - that she was just the sort of woman that a president would fall in love with, in the early days before she was an icon to everyone.

Finally, there's the Morton book, which from Lewinsky's motives for wanting it written alone, make it sound utterly excruciating. "I'd like to be able to reach up on my bookshelf for one of Shakespeare's plays and I would like to think that people will do that with this book." Or: "I want to be happy. I deserve that much." Or: "I'm not a princess in a royal sense, but I was also wronged by a man who said he loved me." Most appalling of all, is the report from Andrew Golding, who introduced Lewinsky to Morton. When Lewinsky has told friends she hopes for her future. "All I ever wanted was to be as internationally famous as Princess Diana. I want to be a movie or a media star and I do not want to be known for ever as the woman who brought down a president. I deserve better than that." My, my, Monica Lewinsky believes she deserves a lot. She does indeed have much in common with Princess Diana.

Like Diana, Lewinsky is the victim of a dysfunctional family background which has left her with feelings of inadequacy. While Diana's feelings of inadequacy did not leave her so soon that she doubted her ability to be first, Princess of Wales then Queen, and to bring up children who would also be monarchs, nor did Lewinsky's disturb her belief - which she still maintains despite the overwhelming evidence to the contrary - that she was just the sort of woman that a president would fall in love with, in the early days before she was an icon to everyone.

Like Diana, she has been hounded by the media, but rather than pack up and live quietly out of the photographers' gaze for a couple of years, and work out a way of living her life that can really make her content, she just wants to stay in that heated spotlight for as long as she can.

Like Diana, she wants lots of money, and she wants lots to earn it without too much effort. And she wants everyone in the world to love her, admire her, understand her, and feel her pain. Thank heavens that both of these women suffered from low self-esteem. What might they have considered their worth to be if only each of them had had a little self-confidence?

RIGHT OF REPLY

CHRISTOPHER SMALLWOOD



The treasurer of the New Europe group responds to a recent article by Donald Macintyre

POOR DAVID Owen. He may have just launched New Europe, the "first sensible-looking organisation dedicated to campaigning against the euro", as Donald Macintyre puts it, but his latest enterprise is doomed before it starts. Why? Because he is on the "wrong side of history". Or so Mr Macintyre argues.

Yet, as the philosopher Isaiah Berlin remarked, "history has no libretto". In other words, nothing is inevitable.

And the truth is that time is on New Europe's side. The fault lines in the euro edifice are already beginning to show. The nonsense of imposing one interest rate across the whole of Europe is already plain to Oskar Lafontaine as a rate too high for Germany drives that country into recession. And it will be equally so to Bertrand Aherne as rates far too low for Ireland send that country up in a blaze of inflation.

When the CBI sees Europe's economies destabilised in this way, it will have to revise the unthinking view that the euro stands for stability and growth. And business will certainly think again when it appreciates the force behind the current Franco-German drive to harmonise taxes, social costs and regulation across Europe. As will the TUC, when the penny drops that this means European levels of unemployment here in Britain.

Given time, British people will realise that being given one vote out of 12 to influence economic decisions in France and Germany in return for surrendering 11 votes out of 12 over what happens here is not good for trade. And, if they do not like what euro bodies decide, they will be able to do nothing about it - democratic accountability will have gone.

Time is on our side. Which is another way of saying that David Owen finds himself on the right side of history.

Chasing the deadly dragon

WEDNESDAY BOOK

THE DRAGON SYNDICATES: THE GLOBAL PHENOMENON OF THE TRIADS

BY MARTIN BOOTH. DOUBLEDAY, £17.99

STRUGNELL'S INCREDIBLE LIGHTNESS OF BEING
BY JOHN WHITWORTH

Their sonnets scan. Their rondels rhyme.

And worse.

Their volumes SELL! Of course they

cannot hope

To pass as poets in the Modern manner.

I scorn to live next door to Sophie Hannah.

No cocoa will I take with Wendy Cope

Girls can't write Poetry.

They write Light Verse.

ISITING TOKYO in 1985, I was stunned by my first exposure to the Japanese equivalent of the *Nine O'Clock News*. The entire half-hour was given over to the funeral of a *yakuza* (organised crime) boss, gunned down two days before. The tones of the voiceover were respectfully hushed, as were the strains of background music that played throughout. At no point was I made to feel I was bidding farewell to an arch-criminal. Rather, I might have been watching the obsequies of a crown prince.

It was surreal, as if there was no other news for Japan. How much, I wondered, had NHK, the state broadcaster, been paid? Or was NHK itself a *yakuza* organisation? But no; it was explained to me that the *yakuza* is considered as much part of the order of things Japanese as Mount Fuji or sumo wrestling. Therefore, the demise of a big man merited commemoration.

Reading *The Dragon Syndicates*, I was reminded of this episode; not because the Chinese Triads are ever accorded such overt public respect, but because, as Martin Booth demonstrates, they are similarly integral to Chinese tradition. Or, to put it another way, to demystify the Triads is tantamount to

demystifying China itself. The opacity of the one is intimately connected to the opacity of the other. Booth's thesis is straightforward enough. The Triads as criminal fraternities are the descendants of earlier "secret" societies founded on principles of clan alliance, personal indebtedness and mutual protection. They utilised a set of common legends and quasi-religious rituals to bond their members.

The need for secrecy was supplied by political circumstance. Because China is so huge, harsh regimes alone can govern it. But a particular spur to secrecy was provided in 1644, when the Ming dynasty was replaced by the Qing. As a result, the majority Han found themselves ruled by the minority Manchu. And this gave rise to endless trouble.

Enter here the second great filip to Triad activity: the Chinese diaspora. Although Chinese traders had settled overseas for many hundreds of years, it was Communism's victory that provoked the modern exodus. And with this exodus, numbering hundreds of thousands, went the secret societies and their villains. These, in turn, provided a ready-made network for the marketing of narcotics.

Drug-dealing, however, is only one division of Triad enterprise. Managerially, one kind of crime is much the same as another. Loan-sharking, gambling, prostitution, kidnapping, counterfeiting, smuggling, illegal immigration, assassination and computer fraud are all covered by the Triad charter.

But where Booth's account stutters is the extent to which such activities have been deeply seeded in locations as far apart as Amsterdam and Sydney, London and Bangkok, San Francisco and Johannesburg, to the extent that the Triads, sometimes linking up with local mafiosi, are perceived as the architects of a global lawlessness that, sooner or later, will engulf us all.



A Hong Kong karaoke club blazes after a Triad arson attack in which 15 people died

By comparison, the *yakuza* seems almost quaint. *The Dragon Syndicates* is palpably good on such subjects as Triad lore ("bullets are blind, knives have no feeling"), Triad hierarchies, Triad personalities and Triad business methods. However, although Booth has had access to police files in Britain and in Hong Kong, necessarily too many of his sources remain undisclosed. This casts a shadow over some of his more hyperbolic claims.

Thus he gives credence to the legend of the 132 one-kiloton, suitcase-sized nuclear devices the Russians are supposed to have manufactured in the pre-Gorbachev era. The Triads, of course, are involved in distributing those that have gone missing. But while this story has been going the rounds for several years, no one I have ever spoken to believes that these bombs are anything other than an example of Russian blarney. In any case, when were the Soviets any good at miniaturisation?

However, we should give credit where credit is due. Booth's is a thumping book and has the aura of well researched plausibility in much of what it reveals. Chinatown is never going to be quite the same again.

JUSTIN WINTLE

THE INDEPENDENT PHOTOGRAPH



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Sir Anthony Nutting Bt

ANTHONY NUTTING was one of the nearly men of post-war British politics, seen by many, including Harold Macmillan, as a future leader of the Conservative Party. But the Suez Crisis was to bring all these expectations to an abrupt end, and Nutting, who was only 36 at the time of his resignation, arguably suffered the greatest political loss.

Over 40 years later, historical opinion is still divided as to whether he was the martyr or the self-inflicted casualty of the unfolding dramas following President Nasser's nationalisation of the Suez Canal in July 1956. The high point of Nutting's ministerial career is easier to assess, coming as it did in October 1954 when he negotiated the final stages in Cairo of the Anglo-Egyptian Agreement, the prelude to the withdrawal of British troops from the Canal Zone. This marked a new phase in the history of Anglo-Egyptian relations and brought him into personal contact with President Nasser, of whom he wrote a substantial biography in 1972.

A handsome, elegant figure, Nutting was a protege of the Foreign Secretary, Anthony Eden, to whom Nutting would have preferred to see as Prime Minister, sought his services as Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office, advising him never to take a non-departmental job because, however grand the title, that would be when he would be marginalised. When Nutting led a delegation to see Churchill shortly afterwards, the Prime Minister inquired: "Haven't I seen you before?" Nutting explained that he was Chairman of the National Executive and that Churchill himself had recently appointed him to the Foreign Office. "Well, you can't do both jobs," said Churchill and Nutting's path was thereafter firmly set in the international field.

In 1954 he was promoted Minister of State and for two years led, with notable success, the British Delegation to the United Nations and a harder assignment - to the Disarmament Commission. When Eden finally became Prime Minister in April 1955, Nutting was seen as one of the charmed circle who bore the key of all his counsels. But the skies were about to darken.

In the autumn of 1955, New York papers publicised personal difficulties Nutting was experiencing. However, Eden stood loyally by Nutting,



Nutting's political career never recovered after 1956

Charles Waterhouse. Owing to Salsbury's illness, Nutting was drafted in at a late stage, "as a deputy for a deputy", to read the prepared text.

To placate the right wing, the party managers wanted Nutting to explain that the text was Salsbury's, but the speech was delivered as though it was Nutting's own ("Make no mistake," he said privately beforehand, "this is to be Nutting's day") and the forceful address contributed to the bewilderment his resignation generated in some quarters in November.

Two days after the Llandudno speech Nutting was present at the fateful meeting at Chequers when a French delegation outlined to Eden what became known as "The Plan", whereby the Israelis were to be invited to launch an attack on Egypt across the Sinai Peninsula, after which the French and the British

peared in 1956, and Suez was once more the topic of debate, Nutting placed a notice in the newspapers reiterating that his "resignation was purely a matter of conscience and principle".

Nevertheless, after his resignation, Nutting was regarded as an outsider in the tribal world of Conservative politics. It was an unhappy time. His first marriage, to Gillian Strutt, ended in divorce in 1959 after 18 years. Though there was never any reprimand with Eden, Nutting wrote a generous letter to Selwyn Lloyd when he was dismissed as Chancellor of the Exchequer by Macmillan in July 1962 and, for his part, Selwyn Lloyd, who had once described the 1956 resignation as "Much Ado about Nutting", spoke in support of Nutting when he contested (unsuccessfully) East Oldham in the 1966 general election.

Importance lay in the fact that it was the first disclosure by a British minister of the events surrounding the Suez Protocol. Many were outraged by the appearance of the book, but Selwyn Lloyd never regarded Nutting's account as being a case of sour grapes. "As a result of it," he wrote, "we have to face a number of important issues", and it influenced Lloyd's decision to publish in due course his own account.

Having waited 10 years to put his side of the story, Nutting was unlucky in its timing, for the publication coincided with the outbreak of the Six Day War, when even some of Eden's former critics were prepared to allow the possibility that contemporary events may have proved Eden to have been right all along. Demands for a debate in Parliament and an inquiry on the model of the Dardanelles Committee in 1916 never took wing.

In his later years, though weakened by arthritis and asthma, Anthony Nutting gave generously of his time to historians and researchers, an important witness to events which had shaped, and then ultimately destroyed his political career.

D. R. THORPE

Harold Anthony Nutting, diplomat, and writer: born Shrewsbury 11 January 1920; Secretary to Anthony Eden 1942; MP (Conservative) for Melton Division of Leicestershire 1945-56; Chairman, Young Conservatives, 1946; Chairman, Conservative National Union 1950-51; Chairman, Conservative National Executive Committee 1951; Under-Secretary, Foreign Affairs 1951-54; PC 1954; Minister of State for Foreign Affairs 1954-56; Leader, UK Delegation to United Nations and United Nations Disarmament Commission, 1954-56; succeeded 1972 as Third Bt; married 1941 Gillian Strutt (two sons, one daughter; marriage dissolved 1959), 1961 Anne Gunning (died 1990), 1991 Margarita Sanchez; died London 23 February 1999.



Gips: uncompromising

When he resigned from the Commons over Suez, Selwyn Lloyd described the affair as 'Much Ado about Nutting'. But, as Eden said, 'There are occasions when strong political convictions must override all other personal and political loyalties'

whom he regarded as a key player, resisting pressure from certain elements in the Conservative Party to remove Nutting from the Foreign Office to a less sensitive position. Eden was encouraged by Nutting's robust response to the sacking of Glubb Pasha as Commander of the Arab Legion in March 1956, but the ramifications of the unfolding Suez Crisis from July was to fracture their relationship.

In the absence of the Foreign Secretary, Selwyn Lloyd, who was negotiating with his Egyptian opposite, Dr Fawzi in New York, Lord Salisbury was due to reply to the Foreign Affairs Debate on 11 October at the Party Conference in Llandudno, when trouble was anticipated from the right-wing Suez Group, led by

would intervene to separate the combatants and regain the canal. When Eden said to the Duty Secretary, "There's no need to take notes", Nutting knew in his heart that their paths would inevitably diverge.

Nutting's resignation, communicated to Eden on 31 October, was delayed until after the invasion, but complicated by some Conservative backbenchers, now dead, who sought to impugn his integrity by a whispering campaign concerning his private life which they suggested was the real reason he wanted to "bale out" of both his office and his constituency, in an era where divorce proceedings could have profound political consequences for a Conservative MP. When Robert Rhodes James's biography of Eden ap-

peared in 1966, and Suez was once more the topic of debate, Nutting placed a notice in the newspapers reiterating that his "resignation was purely a matter of conscience and principle".

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Erich Hartmann

WHEN ERICH Hartmann joined the Magnum photographic co-operative in 1951 the direction of the group (and of the time) was photojournalism - but not for Hartmann.

He chose a more personal path in which to express himself the photographs he made for Fortune magazine or science and industry showed a uniquely human face.

It was just a step from this phase of his career to his assignments for major corporations to photograph their factories and their workers. He was the first to bring the techniques of photojournalism to corporate photography. By his example he opened an entire new field for photographers whose main venues were newspapers and magazines.

He said, "I want to photograph objects in ways they have never been seen before."

In the late 1960s and 1970s he lived in London. He documented the construction of the Britannia aircraft for the Bristol Aeroplane Company and

were being extolled for their snapshot quality. He was also an early colourist and he had one-man exhibitions in New York, London, Paris, Amsterdam, Tokyo and a number of cities in Germany.

Hartmann was born in Munich in 1922 and left Germany as a teenager in 1938 when the Nazi threat increased and his family emigrated to America. During the Second World War he volunteered for the US Army and served in Europe. After the war he moved to New York and learned photography as an assistant to a portrait photographer and, from 1948 to 1950, at the New School for Social Research, with Charles Leibens, Berenice Abbott and Alexei Brodovitch. He was first associated with Magnum in 1951 and became a full member in 1954.

In the late 1960s and 1970s he lived in London. He documented the construction of the Britannia aircraft for the Bristol Aeroplane Company and

he photographed for the leading colour magazines: the *Sunday Times*, *The Observer* and the *Telegraph*, notably on such stories as "Shakespeare's Warwickshire" and "The Norman Conquest Descendants". For the *Weekend Telegraph* he made sensitive colour pictures of "Styles of English Architecture", in a series of photo-essays for which Sir John Betjeman wrote the words and also travelled with Betjeman to the Faroe Islands.

Later Hartmann returned to Germany where he had lived in the shadow of the Nazis until he was 16 and chose a project for himself the death camps. He made an unforgettable book, *In the Camps* (1995).

He said, "I simply felt obliged to stand in as many of the camps as I could reach, to fulfil a duty that I could not define and to pay a belated tribute with the tools of my profession."

The book is a magnificent tribute. There is hardly a person in it. So soli-

THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW
The Independent 3 March 1999

Ruth Gips

THE COMPOSER, conductor and teacher Ruth Gips said she had always found it "difficult to understand young people who don't know what they want to be when they grow up". For Gips, from a young age, it was music.

At first manoeuvred by her mother into appearing as a child pianist, she entered the Royal College of Music in 1937, winning the Card Scholarship. Here she developed both as a composer with Vaughan Williams and Gordon Jacob and as a pianist. Several contemporaries have remarked on her performance of the Brahms Second Piano Concerto while a student.

When Sir Henry Wood conducted Gips's tone poem *Knight in Armour* at the last night of the 1943 Proms, he signalled the emergence of a talented new voice. Chamber works had already been heard at the Wigmore Hall, and no musician could have had a more rewarding concert when in Birmingham in March 1945 she was soloist in a Glazunov piano concerto and followed it by playing cor anglais in the first performance of her own First Symphony.

During the Second World War her life was focused on Birmingham, where, in 1942, she married the clarinettist Robert Baker. In 1944, while he was away on war service, she was a full-time orchestral musician (oboe/cor anglais) in the City of Birmingham Orchestra. During the 1940s Birmingham was an active centre of musical creativity as the conductor George Weldon encouraged local composers and played several big works by Gips, including two symphonies, violin and piano concertos and various tone poems.

As an oboist she was a student of Leon Goossens and she caught the eye of Sir Malcolm Sargent, who asked her to play orchestral cor anglais solos in works such as *The Story of Tuonela*. When her appointment as conductor of the Birmingham Orchestra in October 1946, she seemed to be securely launched as a composer; and it is said that she did not live to see the revival of this work by the young English conductor Douglas Bostock, due out on CD in April.

Back in London she "found a changed world". Sir Henry Wood was dead and no one wanted to look at scores of orchestral works, so she turned her attention to chamber music. In 1956 she won the Cobbett prize of the Society of Women Musicians for her Clarinet Sonata. Op 45, the slow movement of which was written at a sitting. "I heard it in my mind," she said "and wrote it down as fast as I could scribble."

Gips developed a portfolio of activities including directing the City of Birmingham Choir, musical journalism and university extra-mural lecturing. Throughout her life Ruth Gips was a byword for industry and, encountering the feeling against women musicians evident in the 1940s and 1950s, she attempted to establish herself by industry and academic excellence, being awarded an external Durham BMus in 1941, and a doctorate in 1948 for which her composition exercise was her cantata *The Cat*, described by one conductor as "great fun, full of vitality".

The London Repertoire Orchestra filled an enormous gap when she founded it in 1955. Here, every week on Wednesday (chamber ensemble) and Friday (full orchestra), she provided an opportunity of working through a huge span of repertoire, an activity she continued for 31 years.

The cellist Julian Lloyd Webber remembers her capacity to inspire. "Without people like her," he says, "a lot of us would not have had the necessary experience of the repertoire when we first entered the profession." He cites the "infectious enthusiasm" she brought to Elgar's *Enigma Variations* when on one occasion she came to conduct the RCM First Orchestra. With the LRO she also gave intending soloists like Lloyd Webber the opportunity to try through the concerto repertoire, and with him later gave the first London performance of the Bliss Cello Concerto.

The LRO was an example of Gips's practical vision. Later she also founded the Chanticleer Orchestra. Her work for the music profession was wide and largely unsung. Typical was the establishment of the British Music Information Centre. While Chair of the Composers' Guild in 1967, with Elizabeth Yeomans she did all the donkey work which led to the successful launch of this invaluable institution, and it was not the least of her achievements.

A sports car enthusiast - she had first a 1935 MG, later a 1968 Morgan - Ruth Gips thought nothing of driving, heavily swathed, through all weathers.

LEWIS FOREMAN

Ruth Dorothy Louisa Gips, composer, conductor and teacher: born Berchill-on-Sea, East Sussex 20 February 1921; MBE 1981; married 1942 Robert Baker (one son); died Eastbourne, East Sussex 23 February 1999.

mann came to Magnum at the same time, almost 47 years ago:

We have photographed together and met together and consulted together about ethics and journalism, and we have attended 46 Magnum General Meetings, the first with only eight other photographers and the last with more than 50, but all of them passionate, contentious and personal.

He goes on: Through all these years Erich, more than anyone else, has been my moral compass. No matter how knotty the problem he never settled for the facile compromise. He was always wise, judicious, and ferocious, to find the right answer rather than the easy one. When I suspected that I was pursuing my self-interest rather than the common good I would glance over at Erich and if I encountered him his quizzically cocked eyebrow I would shut up.

EVE ARNOLD

Erich Hartmann, photographer: born Munich 29 July 1922; married Ruth Bains (one son, one daughter); died New York 4 February 1999.



Entrance to prisoner cells. Theresienstadt Gestapo prison (Terezin), Czech Republic; photograph by Hartmann from *In the Camps* (W.W. Norton, 1995). 'Arbeit macht frei': 'Work makes you free'

Gipps

Jose Quintero



Quintero: 'Silence is as eloquent as words'

Hulton Getty

THE THEATRE director Jose Quintero has been credited with one of the most important developments in American theatre of the past 50 years – the emergence of off-Broadway as a viable source of great theatre, both artistically and commercially. He also rescued from neglect the playwright Eugene O'Neill, with whose works he became particularly identified, and was important in establishing the careers of actors Jason Robards, Geraldine Page and Colleen Dewhurst. Quintero's staging of such O'Neill plays as *The Iceman Cometh*, *Long Day's Journey Into Night* and *A Moon for the Misbegotten* has become legendary, and he also had great success with works of Tennessee Williams, Truman Capote and Thornton Wilder.

Off-Broadway as a district was centred after the Second World War around Greenwich Village, its appeal parochial and it shows rarely covered by major critics. That changed forever in 1952 when Quintero directed a revival of Tennessee Williams's *Summer and Smoke*, which had failed on Broadway. Mounted at a theatre co-founded by Quintero, the Circle-in-the-Square, and starring the relatively unknown Geraldine Page, it was reviewed by the *New York Times* critic Brooks Atkinson (because it was by Williams) and he applauded the play, the direction and the performances.

Overnight both Quintero and Page were star names, and the play ran for more than a year, though Quintero was later to refer to his sudden fame as "a curse". The bond that he was later to display with the works of O'Neill (he directed 19 productions of O'Neill plays) was echoed in the similarities between Quintero's theatricality and that of the tortured playwright.

Quintero was born in 1924 in Panama City, one of four children of a Spanish businessman. "From birth I was branded a disaster," he later recalled, stating that his father had wanted a daughter, since he already had sons, and also disapproved that the boy's skin was darker than anyone else's in the family. His father rejected the boy's attempts to meet his demands throughout his childhood, and later refused to acknowledge Quintero's homosexuality. "I was taken to a brothel by my father when I was 15," wrote Quintero, "but I was unable to function sexually."

Planning to become a priest, he was educated at the LaSalle Catholic High School in Panama City but when he graduated in 1943 with barely average grades he was best known for his ability to decorate altars and his devotion to Bette Davis movies. He entered the University of Southern California as a medical student, but after receiving a letter from his father saying, "Once had a son whose name was the same as the one you bear, but as far as I am concerned, he is dead," he felt he no longer had to please his family.

Seeing a touring version of Emlyn Williams's *The Corn Is Green*, which he attended every night of its two-week run, awakened an interest in theatre, and he enrolled at the Goodman Theatre Dramatic School in Chicago. A year later, with a group of drama students, he established a repertory company, the Loft Players, in Woodstock, New York, where plays directed by Quintero included *The Glass Menagerie* and Synge's *Riders to the Sea*. In 1950 the group moved to New York City and on their small profits converted an unused former night-club, the Greenwich Village Inn, into a theatre in the round which they called the Circle-in-the-Square Theatre.

Their first season's plays included *Dark of the Moon*, *The Enchanted and Yerma*, then in 1952 came *Summer and Smoke*, which established both off-Broadway and Quintero. "Quintero's success ignited footlights all over the Village," reported *The New York Times*.

"The American theatre expanded some 40 blocks. Critics realised they would not fall into the Atlantic if they ventured south of Times Square." Quintero himself was to write in his autobiography if You Don't Dance, They Beat You (1972), "The day after *Summer and Smoke* opened, we became a success. I had never known what success was, but somehow in the United States things happen overnight. They give you no time for preparation. Let me state here and now that success is a curse. It has a way of devouring any future inventiveness that one possesses. One breathes fear of change. It impregnates you with a formula in order to give birth to nothing. I believe that now, but then at 26 and having changed overnight from unwanted to the most desired, it is the ever-longed-for and seldom achieved sensation of complete happiness. I was encouraged by the long line of people outside the box-office, looking as if they did not get a ticket to see the marvel of my work. They would faint with disappointment."

Quintero almost single-handedly revived the neglected Eugene O'Neill. "Part of my soul," he said, "belongs to O'Neill"

Summer and Smoke had many of the qualities which would become trademarks of Quintero's direction, notably his dexterous manipulation of pauses and silence. "I do not like a fast-paced show," he said. "I prefer subtlety and atmosphere. And particularly silences. Silence is as eloquent as words."

One of his influences had been Jean Delannoy's film version of *La Symphonie Pastorale*: "I stayed to see it three times until the movie house closed. And all that I know about direction came from that movie. When you direct, you're after that shy, inner thing hidden in the woods of your being. But it is not technique that I was ever searching for; but rather the treasure of the blind heart."

Truman Capote's *The Grass Harp* was among other well-received pro-

ductions directed by Quintero before his landmark staging of *The Iceman Cometh* in 1956. Eugene O'Neill, winner of four Pulitzer Prizes and the only American dramatist to receive a Nobel Prize, had been lauded as the country's finest playwright but by the time of his death in 1953 his reputation had faded and critics were calling his work dated. Quintero's revival of *Iceman*, nearly five hours long with a shattering central performance (his first major success) by Jason Robards, drastically changed that view ("a major production of a major theatre work", wrote Atkinson), and six months later on Broadway Quintero staged the American premiere of *Long Day's Journey Into Night* starring Robards, Frederic March and Florence Eldridge, which won both the Pulitzer Prize and the Drama Critics Circle Award. Atkinson said, "It re-

stores the drama to literature and the theatre to art."

Quintero formed a close bond with O'Neill's widow Carlotta, who had entrusted the much-coveted posthumous play to him, and for many years wore her wedding ring, which she gave him as a gift. "Quintero seems possessed by O'Neill's spirit," wrote *The New York Times*, while O'Neill's biographer Barbara Gello wrote, "He has O'Neill's haunted, penetrating eyes. When his demons converged, he hid, like O'Neill, in the bottle."

Quintero's later directorial work included *Children of Darkness* (1958), which advanced the careers of George C. Scott and Colleen Dewhurst, and for the Metropolitan Opera House a double

bill of *Capriccio Rusticana* and *I Pagliacci* (1958). Other lauded productions included Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* (1959) – Wilder attended rehearsals and, like Tennessee Williams, became a close friend of the director – Genet's *The Balcony* (1960), Williams's *Camino Real* (1960), and many works of O'Neill, including *Strange Interlude* (1963) for the Actor's Studio with a cast including Geraldine Page, Ben Gazzara, Franchot Tone and Jane Fonda. *More Stately Mansions* (1967) with Ingrid Bergman, *A Moon for the Misbegotten* (1973) with Robards and Dewhurst for which he won the Tony Award as Best Director, Anna Christie (1977) with Liv Ullman, and *A Touch of the Poet* (1977) with Robards and Geraldine Fitzgerald.

In 1988 Robards and Dewhurst appeared in a revival of *Long Day's Journey Into Night* to mark the centenary of O'Neill's birth.

Quintero made one film, an adaptation by Gavin Lambert of the Tennessee Williams novella *The Roman Spring of Mrs Stone* (1961). Featuring Vivien Leigh as an ageing widow who pays an Italian gigolo (a miscast Warren Beatty) to make love to her, it had some effective sequences and biting performances by Lotte Lenya as a waspish procressus, but was not a success.

In 1980 Quintero directed Williams's last play, *Clothes for a Summer Hotel*, based on the relationship between F Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald, but it ran for only 14 performances. Its star, Geraldine Page, commented, "What made Jos a great director was that he would do everything by suggestion. He would give you the means without telling you what to do. His ideas were so human. So poetic."

In the mid-Seventies, when his drinking problem had become acute ("I used to fill little bottles and put them in my pockets and during rehearsals I would go away in the dark and drink them"), Quintero was aided in his fight against alcohol by Nicholas Isacoff, an advertising executive, who became his lifelong companion. In 1987, the director contracted throat cancer and had his larynx removed, assuming it would mean the end of his career. "I thought of O'Neill, in the last 10 years of his life, when he could no longer work because of the tremor in his hands. And he could not dictate and he could not write on a typewriter, so it meant the end of his life." But Quintero learned how to use a mechanical voice box and continued to work, also becoming a lecturer and university professor.

In August 1996 he directed two early one-act plays by O'Neill at the Province- ton Repertory Theatre on Cape Cod, where the plays were written "Part of my soul," he said, "belongs to O'Neill."

Throughout his career, despite occasional work on Broadway and in London, where he staged *Long Day's Journey Into Night* in 1958, he remained true to his off-Broadway roots. "I wouldn't have been on Broadway if it hadn't been for off-Broadway," he said. Talking of some of the other founder members of the Circle who departed to earn more money, he commented,

The theatre did not reward them to the degree that they wanted. But those of us who stubbornly stuck it out have enriched contemporary theatre by being willing to pledge heart, soul, mind, strength and loneliness to the sometimes wickedness of that where. It can kiss you and applaud you and at the same time break your heart. But there is nothing you can do about it. Nothing you want to do about it. You are in love. What else is there?"

TOM VALLANCE

Jose Benjamin Quintero, theatre director: born Panama City 15 October 1924; died New York 26 February 1999.

GAZETTE

BIRTHS,
MARRIAGES
& DEATHS

DEATHS

NUTTING: The Right Hon Sir Anthony B P F C. The funeral will be held at 3pm on Thursday 4 March at Holy Trinity Brompton, family and friends welcome. All enquiries to Leverton and Sons Ltd, 0171-367 6075.

RAHILY: Peggy nice Warren, beloved wife of Mick, died after a short illness. Peacefully in her sleep on Sunday 28 February 1999. Funeral service at St Mary's Church, Westwood, Bradford-on-Avon, on Tuesday 9 March at 2.30pm. Donations, please to the Stroke Association, Stroke House, Whitecross Street, London EC1Y 8JJ.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £15.00 a line (VAT extra).

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Ernest Bradbury, writer and broadcaster; 20; Mr Nicolas Dusun Bratza, High Court judge; 54; The Hon Peter Brooke MP; 65; Sir George Gardiner, former MP; 64; Mr David Glencross, former chief executive, ITC; 63; Dr Rod Hackney, past President, RIBA; 57; Mrs Joan Humble MP; 48; Mr Takashi Ishihara, counsellor, Nissan Motor Co; 87; Mr Martin Lovett, musician and teacher; 72; Mr Charles Maughan, 76; Professor Neil Merritt, former Vice-Chancellor, Portsmouth University; 60; Mr James Miller, Headmaster, Royal Grammar School, Newcastle upon Tyne; 49; Mr Steve Morrison, chief executive, Granada Media Group; 52; Mr Peter O'Sullivan, racing commentator; 81; Sir Mark Prescott, racehorse trainer;

51; Miss Miranda Richardson, 41; Mr Ronald Searle, artist and cartoonist; 79; Lord Templeman, a former Lord of Appeal in Ordinary; 79; Miss Fatima Whitbread, javelin thrower; 38; Mr Mike Wood MP; 53.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, 1847; Sir Henry Joseph Wood, founder of the Promenade Concerts, 1869; Philip Edward Thomas, poet and critic, 1878; Jean Harlow (Harlequin Carpenter), actress, 1911. Deaths: Giovanni Donatello, painter and engraver, 1484; Lou Costello (Louis Francis Cristillo), actor and comedian, 1959; Arthur Koestler, writer, 1983; Danny Kaye (Daniel David Kaminsky), actor and entertainer, 1987. On this day: Bizi's Carmen was first performed at the Opéra Comique, Paris, 1875; the Turkish National Assembly abolished the Caliphate, and disestablished the Islamic

religion, 1924. Today is the Feast Day of St Alred of Rievaulx, St Anselm of Nonantola, St Arthelais, St Chef, St Cunegund, empress, St Emeterius, St Gervinus, Saints Marinus and Astyrius, St Non or Nonita and St Winwaloe or Guenole.

LECTURES

Royal Society of Arts, London WC2: Dr D. Neil Martin, "Smell: can it be used to manipulate behaviour?", 8pm (0171-830 9286 for tickets). Gresham College, at Staple Inn Hall, London WC1: Professor Roger Penrose, "The Limits of Computation", 1pm.

LUNCHEONS

Australia & New Zealand Chamber of Commerce UK: Mr Bob Hawke was the guest of honour and speaker at a business lunch held yesterday by the Australia & New Zealand Chamber of Commerce UK, at the Baltic Exchange, London EC3.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Princess Royal visits Oracle Corporation UK's Headquarters at Oracle Parkway, Thames Valley Park, Reading, Berkshire; as President, the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, visits Reading and Central Berkshire Carers Centre "Support for Rural Carers" event at Theale Medical Centre, Theale, Berkshire, and the Kirby Room, St Luke's Church, Theale; opens Bradbury House, Berkshire Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre Limited's new Centre at August End, Reading; and, as President, Save the Children Fund, attends a Reception for Wesssex Walks Volunteers at Buckingham Palace.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Philip Ziegler
LITERARY NOTES
PHILIP ZIEGLER

A hearty who took the wrong turning?

THROUGHOUT HIS life Osbert Sitwell found it hard to reconcile his pride in his aristocratic ancestry with his not understanding why. Only much later did Osbert conclude that he was the only truly superior being. His penalty was to be viewed with suspicion, if not mild contempt, by both his intellect and his social peers.

There are precious few Englishmen who could not assume a medieval name if they chose to pick about in their pedigree," wrote Evelyn Waugh of Osbert's pretensions to grandeur. The sneer was unjustified. Osbert's forebears had occupied their estates since the Cytwells had acquired them in the 14th century, and though the family's wealth had come largely from a 17th-century ironworks and 19th-century coalmines, the artists and the others, was unshakeable. He looked down on the middle classes not primarily on social grounds but because he considered them incapable of artistic creation or even appreciation.

The real eminence, though, came on his mother's side. His maternal grandfather may have been (though probably wasn't) the son of the Prince Regent and Lady Conyngham; his mother was definitely daughter of the Duke of Beaufort. "The blood of the Plantagenets flows in our veins," Edith Sitwell was wont to boast. Osbert was more restrained, but the knowledge nevertheless gave him great satisfaction.

Yet for Osbert this was not the only, or even the most important, element in his life. When the children of the local nobility played to

whole, tolerated. His efforts to shock bourgeois society were viewed as regrettable but less deleterious than drink or drugs; he was not a real rebel, judged his publisher, Harold Macmillan; rather, a radical Whig aristocrat who a hundred years before "would have fitted in among the young aristocrats in *Entente*".

To his artistic friends, his seriousness of purpose was quite as suspect. He was deemed a literary playboy, a dilettante – a charge which infuriated him and which was belied by his productivity and the effort he put into drafting and redrafting everything he wrote. Virginia Woolf mocked his "extreme uneasiness, his childlike vanity always striking the two notes: rank and genius". In Wyndham Lewis he was "a hearty who has taken the wrong turning – he has looked at pictures, he has listened to music too much, he has loved the Ballet not wisely but well". His fellow writers respected his achievements but could never quite conceal their belief that he was not one of them.

Only in his autobiography, where he translated his ancestry into art, were the two halves of Osbert's nature successfully resolved. For the rest he was doomed to fit uneasily between two worlds: belonging to both, altogether at home in neither.

Philip Ziegler is the author of "Osbert Sitwell" (Pimlico, 4 March, £14)

Acquitted defendant bears receiver's costs

WEDNESDAY LAW REPORT

3 MARCH 1999

Re Andrews
Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Ward)
25 February 1999

ceivership order When the appellant's property was released to him his solicitors realised that the remaining £10,011 of the amount which had been accounted had not been returned.

The solicitors wrote to the receiver, who replied that there were no funds remaining to be returned to the appellant, all balances having been used to defray the prior costs of the receivership. The appellant applied for an order that his costs of the proceedings, inclusive of the fees, charges, disbursements, expenses and other costs and remuneration of the receiver be paid by Customs and Excise following his acquittal on all criminal charges.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the appellant's appeal against the dismissal of his application for an order that the costs of a receiver appointed under the Criminal Justice Act 1988 should be borne by Customs and Excise following his acquittal on all criminal charges. The appellant and his son were arrested by officers of Customs and Excise and charged with VAT and PAYE offences, to which Part VI of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 applied. The officers seized £23,305 which they found at the appellant's home. Customs and Excise then successfully applied for an order in the High Court under sections 77 and 78 of the Act for restraint and charging orders against both father and son, and for the appointment of a receiver.

The appellant's son was duly convicted in the Crown Court, but the appellant was acquitted on all charges. He was allowed his costs to be paid out of central funds. On taxation, the costs of the High Court proceedings were held not to be covered by the award of costs in the Crown Court.

The appellant applied in the High Court proceedings for the discharge of all the orders against him, including the re-

It was submitted for the ap-

pellant that, on a successful application for the discharge of a receivership order, costs should follow the success in that application, and that the remuneration and expenses of the receiver were part of those costs. Section 51(1) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 provided that "... the costs of and incidental to proceedings ... shall be in the discretion of the court".

However, the true position was that the investigation as to whether or not the defendant had suffered loss by reason of the receivership was an investigation which should and ordinarily would be conducted in deciding whether or not damages should be awarded for breach of the usual undertaking as to damages which a plaintiff would normally be required to give. In the present case no such undertaking had been given.

It was submitted for the re-

spondent that section 89 of the Act provided a defendant with the only relief to which Parliament thought he was entitled.

That section gave the court a

discretion to order payment of compensation to a defendant who had been acquitted, but only where there had been a serious default on the part of a person concerned in the investigation or prosecution of the offence, and there had been no such default in the present case.

Furthermore, even if the expenses of the receivership were within the definition of costs, they were not costs "of and incidental to the proceedings". They had to lie where they fell.

KATE O'HANLON, Barrister

The lost art of learning

The emphasis in education has returned to the three Rs. But will their rigid enforcement stifle creative learning? By Judith Judd

DUMB BRITANNIA 2. EDUCATION

In a world where *Neighbours*, *Sweet Valley High* and *Tomb Raider* are most teenagers' idea of culture, schools are embattled fortresses of civilisation. Far from descending into mindless modernity, teachers are fighting to keep afloat the notion that there is more to life than soap operas and shopping. And they are doing so more determinedly than at any time during the last 30 years. While society may be "dumbing down", schools are smartening up. Think back to the Seventies and early Eighties. Those were the days for the national curriculum when fashionable staffroom catchphrase was "start where the child is": in drama, that meant soaps; in music, pop; and in history, just round the corner. Education had to be "relevant" or pupils would switch off. If they read, why worry too much about what they are reading?

The purveyors of this philosophy had a point – but they went too far. Teachers were free to teach what they liked, invent their own examinations – and mark them. Primary schools, freed from the constraints of the 11-plus exam, might do endless projects on the dinosaurs, or tidy the Romans three times over, without so much as a glance in the direction of the Tudors or the Industrial Revolution. Inspectors revealed in 1979 that only one in 10 primary schools had a decent music programme. For the rest it is all tadpoles and sticky buns. Primary teachers could also take leave music and art. At one end of the spectrum was a small number of schools that draped their walls in tiki and majored in basketweaving, with a smattering of the three Rs in between. At the other were the day schools that concentrated too narrowly on English and maths. The 1988 national curriculum is the biggest shock to the school system in 50 years. Primary schools are compelled by law to teach 11 subjects, including art and music, and secondaries had to do 10. Detailed programmes of study in each subject were laid down. There have been alterations since, and pupils are now able to drop some subjects at 14, but the basic framework remains intact.

Since then, the changes have all gone in one direction. There is an



After changes to the national curriculum, culture is now compulsory rather than at the whim of the individual teacher

markable feature of the lists is their similarity. Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* and Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge* feature on both. The former has Chaucer and Conrad; the latter has Austen and Dickens. 1976 has Greene, Robert Bolt and Naipaul, whereas 2000 has Barstow, Golding and Susan Hill.

The idea that Shakespeare is not "relevant" has proved laughable. At 14, everyone must take a Shakespeare paper; legacy of the hapless John Patten, former secretary of state for education, who was ridiculed when he first proposed it. Last year, pupils performed better on this paper than any other. Shakespeare's lasting appeal must share at least some of the credit with Leonardo DiCaprio.

In history, empathy questions at GCSE ("imagine you are Harold's horse at the Battle of Hastings...") have gone, and facts are back in fashion. Perhaps there are fewer of them than before, but the quality of analysis demanded is much sharper than in the days of O-levels. Then, a mere recital of the facts, with only a limited understanding of the sub-

ject, would earn full marks. Under the new regime, grammar, spelling, punctuation and mental arithmetic all attract separate allocations of marks. Those syllabuses invented by teachers have been outlawed.

The next change in the name of rigour will come at A-level. New rules will make study of pre-1700, as well as pre-1900 works of literature, compulsory. Mathematicians will have to learn specified formulae in order to answer universities' complaints that new students have not covered the basics, and the use of calculators will be restricted. Modern linguists must all learn the same grammar.

In primary schools, thanks to

the national curriculum, culture is now compulsory, rather than at the whim of the teacher. Every 10-year-old should have at least a nodding acquaintance with Picasso, Botticelli and Cézanne; they must study great painters, and try to paint in their style. They also have to listen to some of the great classical composers. Science, for the first time, is a serious proposition for under-11s.

The last decade has seen steady progress in schools towards an ethos that refuses to accept that inner-city children have no need of Mozart and that there is no point in teaching teenagers about books which are not immediately "relevant" to their lives.

Alongside is a growing emphasis on reading and writing as the gateway to the rest of the curriculum. Primary education is shifting away from the child-centred learning of the Sixties and Seventies towards more structured methods of teaching. Ministers have introduced a literacy hour and a numeracy hour with detailed guidance on how to teach them. For the first time since the demise of the 11-plus, there is a

national test for 11-year-olds. There are also national tests at five, seven and 14; today's pupils are the most tested generation ever.

Yet, just as the effect of reform is beginning to make itself felt, ministers have begun to send out some worrying signals. About a year ago David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, announced that primary schools would no longer have to follow programmes of study in subjects such as history, music and art. They would still have to teach them, but the details and amount of time would be left to schools. The aim was to allow teachers to concentrate on literacy and numeracy so that ambitious government targets would be met. Mr Blunkett protested his belief in a broad curriculum, but it sounded suspiciously like goodbye to Cézanne and the Tudors.

The present situation may change. A new version of the curriculum, to begin next year, is being drawn up by government advisers and some details may be restored. If they are not, the balance of the classroom will swing dangerously to-wards the utilitarian. Teachers are already under fierce pressure to raise standards in the three Rs. Only a brave headteacher will be prepared to sacrifice the targets to widen pupils' aesthetic horizons.

There's a similar whiff of utilitarianism about proposals for older pupils: 14-to-16-year-olds are to be weeded away from truancy by offers of more vocational courses and one day a week in the workplace. The idea that it is pointless to teach drama, music and art to inner-city kids is defeatist. Remember Vic Ecclestone, the teacher who persuaded pupils on the deprived Hartcliffe estate in Bristol to take an interest in ballet, opera and cricket. He ran hugely popular after-school workshops in a range of activities and persuaded members of the Royal Ballet, Rambert Dance and Sadler's Wells to coach both boys and girls.

The biggest danger of dumbing down in schools comes not from a diminished curriculum or trendy teachers, but from a government whose view of education is too narrow to encompass Mr Ecclestone.

HOW DUMB ARE WE?

"I don't think that elitism is really a bad thing. I don't think that people are dumb – they're actually quite astute. What is dumb is what they've done to the education system – Blunkett and that awful man with the silly haircut, who don't want children to have fun any more... The idea that everyone is educated from the age of five to be some kind of middle-management salesperson is absolutely disastrous."

Sir John Mortimer, writer



"We are currently going through a period of artisanalism... If people look at the diet of pop we have at the moment, while the content could be considered 'dumbed down', the form of the music that kids are listening to is of a very high quality indeed, and when these kids grow up, they in turn will demand this quality from their music."

"My objection to the phrase 'dumbing down' is that it implies there was some golden age of the past when everything was better, which I think is absolute bollocks..."

"I think this Government has tried to appeal to popular culture and play on the fact that Tony Blair once played guitar in a band and Peter Mandelson likes going to clubs. It all hopelessly back-



fired, but the important thing is that this Government has accepted the importance of popular culture, and those who consider themselves part of high culture are terribly upset by this."

Anthony Willson, presenter, Granada TV, head of Factory Records

The speakers are contributing to a conference entitled *Culture Wars, Dumbing Down, Wising Up?* at the Riverside Studios, London W8, 5-7 March

Fifty years as prisoners of war

That a painting by Degas in the National Gallery may have been looted from a Jewish family by Nazis is front-page news. But what of Mr Kellerman's tie-pin, deposited for safekeeping before the War? Or Dr Goldberger's £344, 12s and 10d? Why have they never been returned? By Adam LeBor



Above, Christophe Meili, who found and returned Jewish ledgers from the Holocaust era; right, 'After the Bath, Woman Drying Herself', by Degas

AP/National Gallery



deposited by Jews and non-Jews from Nazi-controlled countries, or to take into account that Holocaust survivors and heirs would not have the paperwork necessary to reclaim their funds. Some funds were returned to Jewish claimants, but the odds were stacked especially high against those Holocaust survivors who lived behind the Iron Curtain.

Jews, for example from Romania,

who had entrusted British banks with their assets during the war, now found that they could not reclaim them, because the Romanian government owed Britain money.

As the scandal over the dormant Swiss accounts gathered momentum, the focus soon moved to other Western countries, even those

such as Britain which had fought the Nazis. In January 1997, Christophe Meili, a security guard at Union Bank of Switzerland, saved unique historical bank records from destruction by smuggling them out to Jewish groups. Meili's actions made him a hero to Jewish organisations, but his countrymen responded to his actions with a campaign of threats and vilification. In April 1997, the Meili fled Switzerland for the US, where they sought asylum after a series of death threats against themselves and their children. In August, the US Congress passed special legislation granting the Meili family residency in America.

In April 1998, the British Foreign Office published a report on the treatment of enemy property during the Second World War. A website of more than 25,000 records of those whose property had been confiscated was launched (www.enemyproperty.gov.uk). The website itself offers an eerie, state-of-the-art link through computer technology to the now-vanished past of Central European Jewry. Many of the 25,000 names are of Jews who died in the Holocaust, or who have long since gone from the addresses at which they are listed. Here is Dr Leo von Buday-Goldberger, who vanished when he was taken away by Soviet soldiers in 1945. Dr Goldberger had securities worth £344 12s 10d confiscated. And Mr Kalman Kostelitz of Dorothy Street, Budapest, Mr

Kostelitz had £1,006 11s 4d worth of assets seized. Mr Kostelitz returned to Hungary after the war, but failed to reclaim his assets. No matter that he had been in Bergen-Belsen.

As a Jew, Kalman Kostelitz was an enemy of the Hungarian Fascists and their Nazi allies. As a citizen of post-war Communist Hungary, he was deemed an enemy of Britain. As the holder of a foreign bank account in London, he would, if discovered, have been an enemy of the Hungarian Communists. No wonder he never got his money back.

The monies once deposited by Holocaust survivors will never be returned – they no longer exist. None of the original assets is still held by the British government – apart from March Kellerman's jewellery – as all have either been liquidated and used to pay British creditors, or returned to their owners. Now though, the heirs of those account holders, such as Kalman Kostelitz and Dr Leo von Buday-Goldberger, can claim compensation. Last December, Peter Mandelson, then secretary of state for trade and industry, detailed the Government's plans to compensate Nazi victims and their heirs whose assets had been confiscated by the British government.

About £25m has been set aside to deal with claims, which will be paid at today's values. That sum is a starting-point; further funds may become available. The scheme should go some way towards closing what in Mr Mandelson's words, was "not a glorious chapter in our history".

Hitler's Secret Bankers: How Switzerland Profited From Nazi Genocide is published by Simon and Schuster



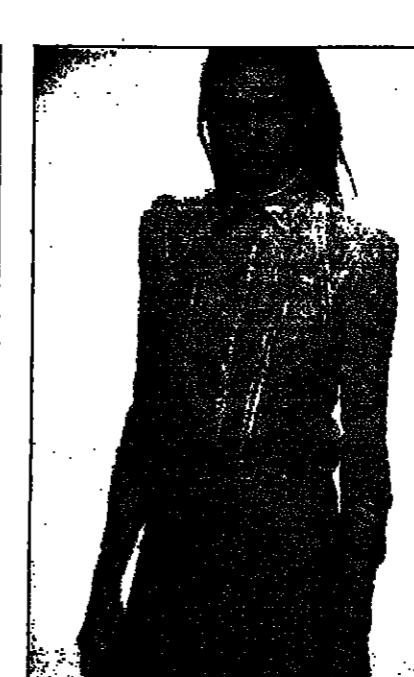
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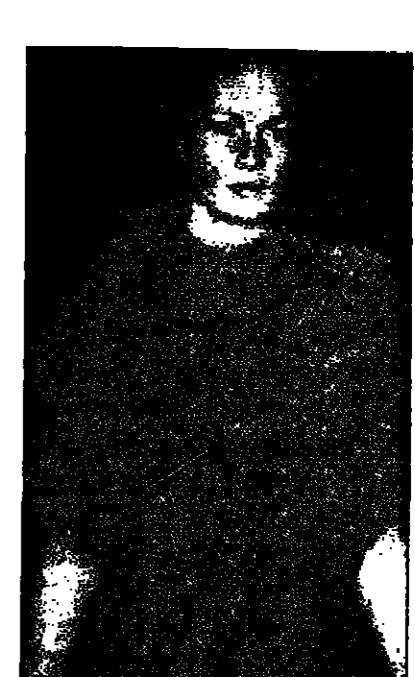
Paul Smith



Tanya Sarne for Ghost



Kosuke Tsumura



Kosuke Tsumura



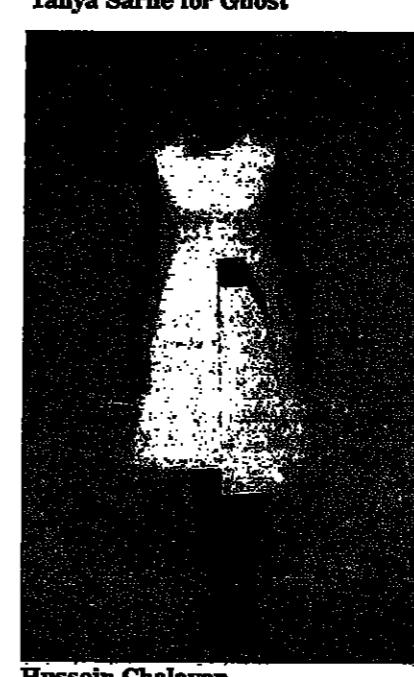
Joe Casely-Hayford



Roberto Menichetti for Burberrys



Matthew Williamson



Hussein Chalayan



Clements Ribeiro



Alexander McQueen



Nicole Farhi



Photographs: Ben Elmes



Tristan Webber



Shelley Fox

The raw and the buffed

Variety was the key at London Fashion Week. Young designers got the attention, but big names held their own. By Susannah Frankel



Sonja Nuttal

Last week's London collections were nothing if not diverse - from the young designer Robert Cary-Williams's second raw-edged affair held in a tiny venue, to Burberry's first appearance on the London catwalk - a super-slick, super-expensive show more reminiscent of the Milan runways than anything normally associated with our fashion capital.

The clothes themselves were equally disparate. Cary-Williams's designs are ripped, torn and tattered, romantic but deconstructed, and aimed at a fashion-literate and probably very small clientele. But Burberry's, now designed by Roberto Menichetti from the Jil Sander stable, was polished from start to finish, if in a highly derivative manner. Blink and you might have missed the odd flash of Burberry's check. Without it, this was, well, Jil Sander to tell the truth, from the luxury hi-tech fabrics to the three-buttoned jackets pulled very slightly too-tight across the top of the chest. What the Burberry's customer is likely to make of it remains to be seen.

The two most accomplished shows of the week represented very different aesthetics, courtesy of Hussein Chalayan (hot tip for this year's British Designer of the Year) and Alexander McQueen.

For his show, Chalayan returned to his preoccupation with flight. The first outfit out, in gleaming white metal, had a red, flapping light at its hem and a panel that dropped down like the wings of a plane coming in to land. This was Chalayan's most sophisticated offering to date, apparently minimal but increasingly complex the closer you looked: fabric moulded into shape by intricate webs of seams; a crescent cut out of the back of a dress to reveal layer upon layer of the fabric that has constructed it perfectly pure silhouette.

McQueen follows a rather more dramatic and high-impact route. His larger-than-life snowstorm was filled with his most unashamedly pretty collection to date and will go down in fashion history as one of the most brilliantly imaginative,

brilliantly orchestrated and brilliantly beautiful shows to be seen in London.

Much is made - quite rightly - of Britain's bright young design talent. The Jerwood prize-winner Shelley Fox took us to the East End for a quietly beautiful, conceptual collection. Markus Lupfer, formerly a design assistant at Clements Ribeiro, offered up a more obviously glamorous, highly coloured and cutely idiosyncratic debut. Both are names to watch. Tristan Webber's show this time round exercised rather more restraint than it has done in the past: a more controlled colour palette suited his accomplished cutting techniques far

McQueen's larger-than-life snowstorm, filled with his most unashamedly pretty collection to date, will go down in history

better. Matthew Williamson, too, continues to pull in the crowds. As a colourist he is unrivalled in London, and his hot pinks and reds contrasting with more neutral hues won't disappoint. It's all very west London; the requisite pashmina, for example, was here transformed into a skirt.

Clements Ribeiro, too, will attract this type of customer, although the clothes are more complex. Tailoring looked super-chic: low-slung but still sharp. Devore sheath dresses were lovely, as was black tulle appliquéd with gold roses and worn over white, paying more than lip-service to the vintage good looks beloved of London girls, but with a modern feel.

The knitwear supremo Julian Macdonald held back from turning women into the proverbial Christmas tree this season, and the result was good to see. Joe Casely-Hayford turned out soft shapes in pretty colours, with a raw edge

that looked very of-the-moment: dresses and skirts with the texture of teddy bears were adorable.

Sonja Nuttal, another great hope for the future, went down the arts-and-crafts route that is emerging as one of next autumn/winter's major trends. Crochet knits, appliquéd, multi-tiered frills and bold prints were all suitably upbeat, complementing perfectly a largely pared-down silhouette. Here, as on other runways, burnt orange reigned supreme.

While our younger designers continue to attract the most attention, other more established names remain a force to be reckoned with. Nicole Farhi and Betty Jackson both sent out easy, relaxed clothes in super-soft fabrics that looked a pleasure to wear. Farhi's emerald velvet was especially desirable - velvet also cropped up on the catwalks of Elspeth Gibson and Clements Ribeiro - and Jackson's subdued but lovely colour palette (sage green, smoky blue, deep red and dusty rose), subtle textures and fluid silhouette were good to see.

Jasper Conran's collection was more minimal than it has been - very cool in soft leather, matt jersey and heavy satin. Also a first was a pretty new neckline: a wide funnel that stood away from the skin, giving the illusion of slenderness and length.

Paul Smith, showing his womenswear in London for only the third time, is looking increasingly confident. Argyle knits, masculine trouser suits and tulip-shaped shift dresses were particularly appealing, put together in that very English way that Smith understands well: models looked like kooky aristocrats strolling round the Basil Street Hotel.

Tanya Sarne's Ghost label continues to go from strength to strength. The collection, inspired, as last season, by Victorian, looked less overtly pretty and more modern, without ever losing the signature style known and loved by the world over.

Finally, the Japanese designer Kosuke Tsumura continues to honour us with his presence - it was great to see his soft-shouldered silhouette.



Robert Cary-Williams

Guys and dollars

With no more than wit, guile and a TV camera, Michael Moore defends working-class Joes against big US corporations. So why does he have time for Rupert Murdoch? By Mike Higgins

It's never enough for Michael Moore simply to fight the underdog's corner: the 43-year-old television satirist likes to run circles round the opposition. In the first show of his new Channel 4 series, *The Awful Truth*, the softly-spoken Moore champions a diabetes sufferer whose medical insurers have denied him the funds to go ahead with a life-or-death pancreas transplant. When the insurers refuse to back down, Moore and the claimant turn up at their headquarters and stage a rehearsal of his imminent funeral. Within a week the insurers lose their corporate bottle and capitulate.

"I really think that humour can be an incredibly effective weapon to combat things that we think are wrong," he says. The same belief led to Moore's breakthrough film 10 years ago. In the late-Eighties, General Motors initiated a devastating series of plant closures in Moore's birthplace, the one-company town of Flint, Michigan. *Roger & Me* followed the former editor of the *Michigan Voice* in his pursuit of an explanation from Roger Smith, the chairman of GM. It was a David's-eye-view of corporate Goliaths, as hilarious as it was incensed. (If anyone doubts Moore's influence, take a look at *Mark Thomas's Comedy Product* which follows *The Awful Truth* tonight.)

"All the best comedy is always borne out of serious anger at the social and human condition," notes Moore, tracing a genealogy of America's angriest comedians: Lenny Bruce, Richard Pryor, Eddie Murphy. And the late Bill Hicks? "Oh, definitely Bill Hicks. That's somebody you guys know better than Americans do."

Moore, too, knows what it's like to be a satirist without honour in your own land. His last series, *TV Nation*, took up where *Roger & Me* had left off, irreverently wrenching stories from the stern grip of the hard-news media. In its ever-popular Corporate Executive Challenge, for instance, CEOs were called upon to carry out the most basic relevant task: for example, could the head of IBM format a floppy disk?

In 1995, Fox TV canned the Emmy award-winning show in America after just two seasons. Since then, Bravo, a cable channel reaching just a million homes, has proved the only channel gutsy enough to pick up his latest series. In Britain, meanwhile, the BBC (who had previously nabbed *TV Nation*) and Channel 4 went toe-to-toe for the rights to broadcast *The Awful Truth*.

The irony is not lost on Moore. "Every week I was on the air [with *TV Nation*] it was the No 1 rated programme in that time slot with that young adult male demographic that they want to sell Budweiser and MacDonald's to," explains Moore, mystified. "You see [commercial TV executives] aren't like us. We make our decisions based on how we feel, what we believe in politically. They have one overriding value: the bottom line."

Has Rupert Murdoch asked him to prove that *TV Nation's* 15 million weekly viewers weren't a fluke, though, he'd have jumped at the chance to go back to Fox. Hang on a minute: the people's champion cosyng up with one of the world's biggest media moguls? He may not be back on Fox but he's signed a book deal with Harper-Collins. "Even though Murdoch and I may

disagree politically in terms of the issues at his heart he's a populist. He likes the fact that he puts out television shows and newspapers that appeal to the working class. I would guess his British experience did not endear him any more to the elites that run this country. You don't need Moore to spell out his own dislike of unearned privilege."

His lumberjack shirt and trademark baseball cap is the uniform of America's honest-to-goodness heartland, a heritage he's proud of. "It's very rare, you know, that any of us get on TV. We don't get TV shows, the working class." And even though Moore now lives in sophisticated New York, he misses Michigan's blue-collar progressiveness. He says of New York: "I'd never lived in a city with a Republican Mayor, a Republican governor, a state that has the death penalty: a city where the cops have killed 100 people since Giuliani became Mayor."

Flint, on the other hand, was the first city to elect a black mayor. It even claims Moore in a lengthy encomium of his home town, doubled the deposit earned on a soda bottle: "So you go up and down the highways of Michigan there's no litter!"

Moore has just delivered the sort of earnest sermon he's careful never makes it on to his shows. "If you try to have a straight argument or discussion with [the big corporations], they'll have all their standard one-liners. So you kind of disarm them with their weakness - their inability to laugh or have a sense of humour. It's like the difference between judo and karate - there's no way you're going to win with a karate chop to the neck of corporate America." It's a lesson Moore learnt

where the cops have killed 100 people since Giuliani became Mayor."

Flint, on the other hand, was the first city to elect a black mayor. It even claims Moore in a lengthy encomium of his home town, doubled the deposit earned on a soda bottle: "So you go up and down the highways of Michigan there's no litter!"

Moore has just delivered the sort of earnest sermon he's careful never makes it on to his shows. "If you try to have a straight argument or discussion with [the big corporations], they'll have all their standard one-liners. So you kind of disarm them with their weakness - their inability to laugh or have a sense of humour. It's like the difference between judo and karate - there's no way you're going to win with a karate chop to the neck of corporate America." It's a lesson Moore learnt

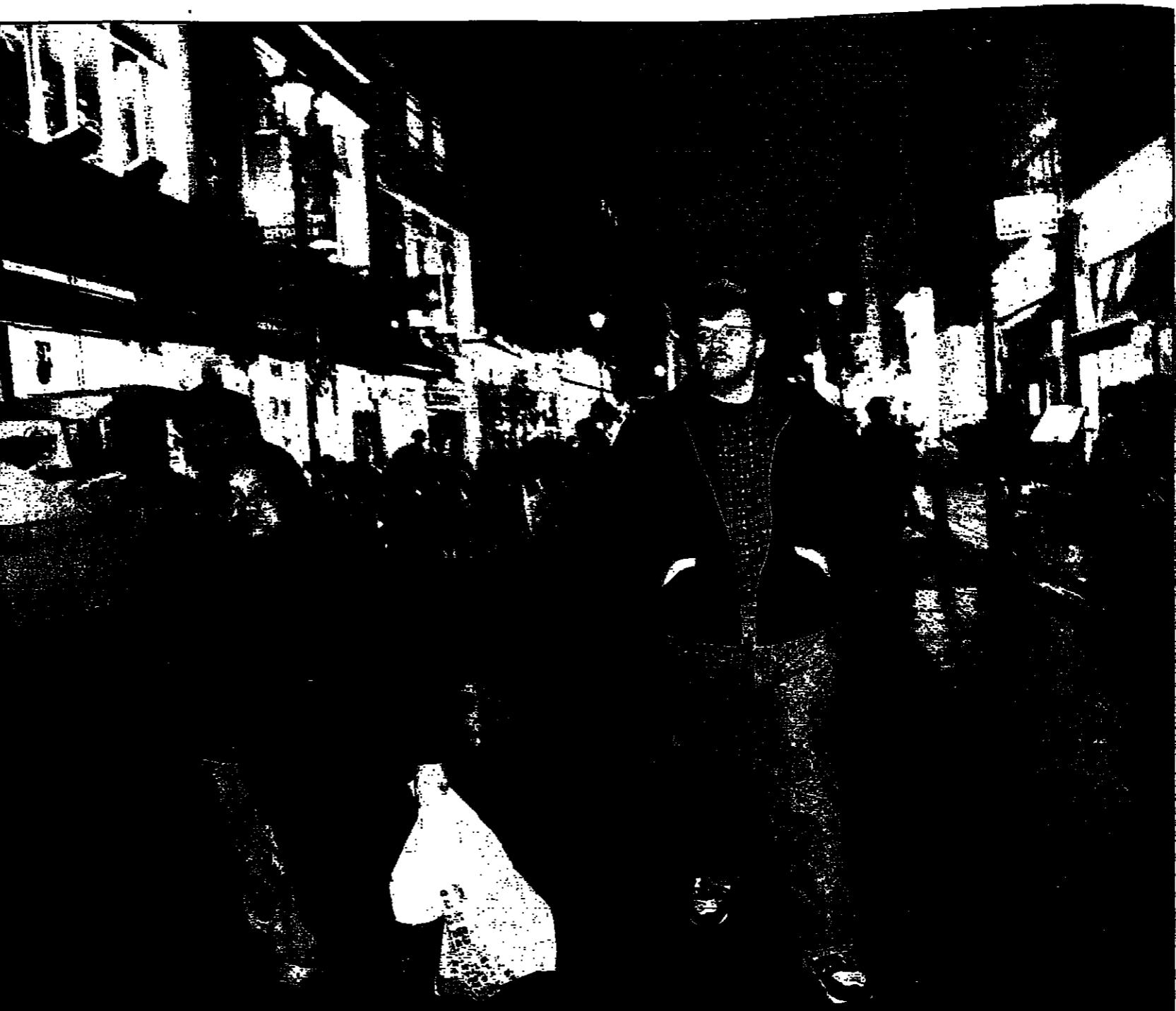
early. At 16 he attacked a national business guild's racist membership policy in a speech contest sponsored by the very same guild. Moore took first prize and helped end the policy in question.

Two years later, he became the youngest person ever elected to political office in the United States, winning a seat on his local Education Board while still at school and eventually getting his old high school principal the sack. Today Moore says he's a political activist: "Citizen means 'a political activist'. But it's not something I want to do full-time - *(The Awful Truth)* is my contribution."

This time round, Moore is joined by more than a few standers-by in Manhattan, linking the packages instead before a sizeable, live, American audience. "I wanted the people at home to see that it's not just me and couple of crazy people in Times Square that believe in these things. It's like a big town meeting - 1,000 people in the room and they're all shouting and hollering and raising it up. I like that."

Otherwise, *The Awful Truth* is business as usual, if a little edgier and more confrontational. Big business and bigots beware. "It's like *The Wizard of Oz* where everybody's afraid of the Wizard until Toto pulls back the curtain and reveals that he's just a frightened little man. Our show is kind of like Toto - pull the curtain back and show that these companies are not run by big bad wizards, they're actually just normal people. And some of them aren't too bright."

Michael Moore: The Awful Truth, tonight 10.30pm, Channel 4



Michael Moore: 'All the best comedy is born out of serious anger at the social and human condition'

Emma Boam

Straight from the horse's mouth

SIX ENCORES in two evenings is not bad going. And when last of these (chasing a melting *Valse Triste*) was the whole of *Finnlandia*, you get some idea of the quality and scale of last weekend's enthusiastically received events in Birmingham.

This was Sibelius straight from the horse's mouth. No orchestra has received greater accolades recently for charting Sibelius than the Lahti Symphony Orchestra under Osmo Vanska. In particular, the Lahti has

a feverish reviser, had second, or sometimes third, thoughts - the *Valse Triste*, the Fifth Symphony, *En Saga* plus a clutch of his neglected scores from the 1890s, notably the tone poem *The Wood Nymph*, all of which featured in what amounted to a two-day residency by this orchestra, making its British debut at Symphony Hall.

Just how do Finland's conservatoires generate such polished performers? Not just the sectional playing, but subsections too, produce playing of exciting precision.

Vanska's strings have extraordinary range: they can deliver a savage, rasping tone where called for; yet their pianissimos are so refined as to be barely audible.

The Wood Nymph, which followed Sibelius's *Bayreuth* initiation at times teeters perilously close to Valhalla's gates - like Wagner channelled through Smetana. Karelia hovers in the background - a later highlight is an exquisitely sensual extended cello solo, ushered in by violins. The closing pages, however, feature the sort of thin rhetoric

to which Sibelius soon applied the scissors. It was the rhetoric of virtuosity that he sought to escape by excising some attractive platiñous interludes and cadenza material from the much-tautened Violin Concerto. Vanska approached the rugged first version refreshingly,

with no hint of languid sentiment. What emerged, with award-winning Leontidas Kavakos as soloist, was satisfying: less silken, more rugged.

Especially magical was the slighter "Spring Song", whose glimpses of a *Finnlandia*-like pathos drew lucid sectional playing in massed strings and brass that took the breath away, while from the less often heard Third Symphony, the Lahti drew pianissimos, part pizzicato, as mesmerisingly played as you will hear anywhere, and some enchanted *Landler* pirouetting

from lightly vibratoed flute. The unrimmed, rather Rimskian prototype *En Saga* of 1892 holds up strikingly in its own right - uplifted here by impeccable brass playing, an exquisite sustained clarinet solo and wondrous nervy cello fade-out.

If intriguing extracts from the earlier, less chiselled four-movement version of the Fifth Symphony dominated the afternoon, it was Vanska's superbly controlled links and build-ups, in the evening's 1919 version - always with something held in reserve - that had me on the edge of my seat. The soprano Kirsu Tihonen missed that edgy pathos that can make "Luonnotar" so melting, but brought appeal to two of the three preceding songs. The weekend's bonus was the young, all-female Tempera Quartet, Finnish students from the Royal College, who brought rhythmic verve and personality to the finale of Sibelius's "Voces Intimae" Quartet. Sheer joy.

RODERIC DUNNETT
The Lahti Symphony Orchestra's recordings of Sibelius are on BIS

CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices

No. 001148 of 1999

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT

IN THE MATTER OF INDUSTRIES LIMITED

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that a Petition was on the 15th

of February 1999,

presented to Her Majesty's

High Court of Justice for the

confirmation of the reduction

of the capital of the

company.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER

given to the Creditors of

Industries Limited

that a Petition was on the 15th

of February 1999,

presented to Her Majesty's

High Court of Justice for the

confirmation of the reduction

of the capital of the

company.

Dated this 3rd day of March

1999.

Herbert Smith,

Exchange House,

Finsbury Circus,

London EC2M 7AJ.

Witness for the abovesigned Company.

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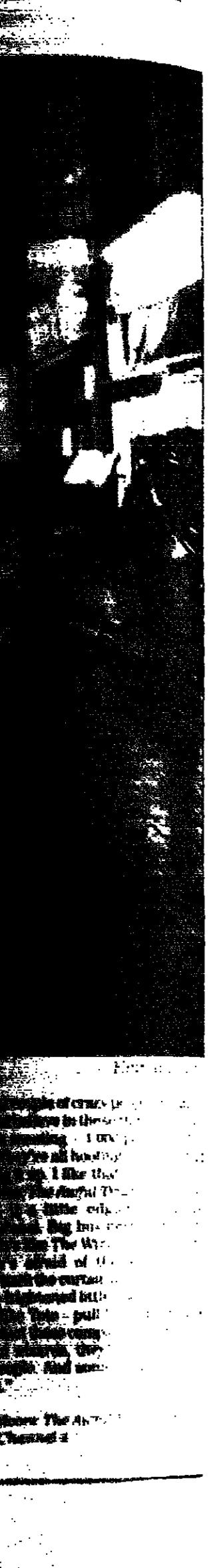
presented to Her Majesty's

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ab 11.10 15.0

The trouble with Robert Holman's plays is that they can't be pigeonholed. It's also their strength. And now, with a new play at the RSC and a West End revival, his work should find a wide audience at last. By Paul Taylor

Tales of the unexpected

He was a very quiet and honourable man, my dad, really," submits the playwright Robert Holman of his father, who spent the Second World War labouring on the land as a conscientious objector.

The Holman family has a long tradition of pacifism. Robert Holman's great-grandfather was sent to Strangeways for his beliefs during the Great War, but ironically at the time of the Second World War he was engaged in government-sponsored work, organising the reception in Manchester of the Jews fleeing from Poland. About 1,000 people turned up for his funeral.

Holman's father was also man enough to admit to his adult son that if the Nazi death camps had come to public attention earlier, he would have laid aside his principles and fought. Holman cannot now remember if this confession came before or as a result of *Making Noise Quietly*, his beautiful, elliptical triptych of plays about lives touched by war and violence.

First presented to great acclaim at the Bush in 1986, it is now revived in a poetic, heart-twistingly lovely touring production by Deborah Bruce for the Oxford Stage Company, and it is due to head into the West End for a six-week season at the Whitehall Theatre in April. The coincidence of this major revival and the current RSC transfer at The Pit of his disgracefully underrated latest play, *Bad Weather*, invites a re-appraisal of a finely imaginative, toughly delicate body of work. It also prompts the observation that, like his father, Holman is a quiet and honourable man.

This has not helped his media profile. Journalists find it easier to cope with schools and waves than with individuals who resist categorisation. That said, it is ironic that your first thought, on meeting this hard-to-pigeonhole playwright, is how peculiarly reminiscent he is of Alan Bennett. True, you feel you'd have to resort to chloroform to get him into a tie, cords and tweed jacket, and he is not a university wit, having cracked the charms of further education and subsidised his early writing career by working for three years in the bookstall on platform one at Paddington.

The resemblance is there, though, in the shy, wry humour. A tickled-sounding laugh bobs like a grace note over his conversation, the strong Yorkshire vowels seeming to date back to a generation earlier than his own. It is also present in the sense you get that, for all his superficially fey, boyish innocence, he would, if tried on a point of principle, constitute a formidable one-man hawk squad.

An entry in Bennett's *Writing Home* leapt to mind while we were talking. Distracted by the Falklands War, Bennett wrote, broodingly, "Not English. I feel now, this is just where I happen to have been put down. No country. No party. No Church. No voice. And now they are singing 'Britannia Rules the Waves' outside Downing Street. It's the Last Night of the Proms erected into a policy." In the middle play in *Making Noise Quietly*, set during the Falklands War, a young naval

lieutenant visits a woman to tell her that the son she has not heard from for five years has been killed on the *Glamorgan*. The piece is a subtle study of how instinctive revulsion for a pointless war can be sidetracked by circumstances, and denied. The woman takes refuge from the deep pain of this death in snobbish gratification that the gashly son had secretly married into the messenger's posh naval clan and to spare her husband's feelings she ends up deciding, half-wisely, half-unconsciously, to take an official *Ulce et decorum est pro patria mori* stand.

Given all this, and the mid-Eights date of the original production, you might have thought it reasonable to assume that the Falklands had fuelled this trilogy. But that would be to misunderstand the *ad hoc* routes inspiration takes with instinctive writer. That conflict was, in fact, the last piece to be fitted into the jigsaw.

Paradoxically, what unlocked the project for him wasn't any of the books about war he'd been avidly reading, but *The Journals of Denton Welch*, which cover the period 1942-44 and which, in 400 pages, mention

the war only twice. Something of their bruised lyricism and homo-erotic sub-currents inform *Being Friends*, the first panel in Holman's triptych.

As an artist, he seems the antithesis of his exact contemporary Stephen Poliakoff (born 1952), a writer-in-residence at the National Theatre at the same time as Holman, and who also happens to have a play in the current RSC season. Set in the BBC in the Thirties, Poliakoff's *Tales of the City* asks whether the mass radio audience was misled by a conspiracy of silence about the plight of the Jews in Germany. It is tremendously easy to convey what this play is about and to generate publicity for it because its ideas and its implied modern parallels are all that it amounts to.

But it would be a brave person who would attempt to give you an *in-a-nutshell* summary of *Bad Weather*, with its strange combination of repeated shocks and slow eventlessness, and Holman's characteristic density of subtext, which actors adore.

Critics are busy people with deadlines, but plays like this need to live with you and grow less nebulous in the imagination.

Hence the better immediate reception for Poliakoff's inferior play.

Bad Weather was triggered by a personal experience of being the one dissenting voice on a jury at the trial of some young men charged with grievous bodily harm - Holman's private letter to the judge wound up being handed round in court and used by the defence barristers in mitigation.

This may have been what prompted it, but the play soon branches out from its social-realist Teesside starting-point.

The characters are sent away for an idyllic, soul-searching, yet only jaggedly redeeming respite in rural France, rather as Holman's excellent 1991 play, *Rafts and Dreams*, dispatched a group of survivors from a global flood over the waters in a sawn-away living-room and asked whether, even with this radical opportunity to cut adrift from the tangles of the past, people would be able to make the requisite psychological leap.

There are certain recurring preoccupations in Holman's work. The psychology of taking the rap for someone else's crime, for example, is explored both in *Bad Weather* and in his splendid 1992 novel, *The*

Amish Landscape, where a boy has to cover for his father's murder of his brother.

Offering unusual opportunities for child actors, the plays are correspondingly taxed by the question of what it means to be an adult, and by the way the truth presented becomes a different face as you grow older. Being an instinctive writer, he does not thank you for pointing out the pattern of emotional displacement in his work.

He tells me, though, that as with *Making Noise Quietly*, *Bad Weather* has expanded into a trilogy broadly dealing with the theme of crime and punishment. When we met, Holman was unrepentantly pessimistic about the chances of the RSC staging this long work after the non-tumultuous box office for *Bad Weather*. He seems to be that rare bird, a genuinely modest writer. The RSC should remember though, that there is nothing modest about his achievement.

Making Noise Quietly is at the Traverse, Edinburgh (0131-228 1404) and at the Whitehall Theatre, London from next month. *Bad Weather* is in rep at the Pit, London EC2 (0171-638 8891) to 13 March.

Philip Meech

Nice and sleazy

REVIEW

THE IMPPOSTOR
THE DRUM THEATRE
PLYMOUTH

PETE LAWSON'S *The Impostor* is a reworking of Molière's much-banned *Tartuffe*, substituting New Labour ducking and diving for the original attack on religious hypocrisy, and transporting the time and place from 17th-century France to present-day Bolton. Lawson's text is "all governments are sleazy", which he promotes by using Molière's original characters and relentless rhyming. Yes, it is a well-sustained attack on New Labour, the betrayal of transparent whiter-than-white for presentation forged in darkness.

The Impostor is a smart piece of work, clever in conception and execution under Jennie Darnell's direction, with smart, state-of-the-art decoration in Matthew Wright's painlessly contemporary-shiny Home Office set. It's also smart enough to be able to update the dialogue to include references to impeachment, Clapham Common and large donations to political parties from self-interested businessmen.

In sticking to the original model, Lawson has lumbered himself with 10 characters, some of whom make only fleeting appearances and seem to detract from the main strands of the plot. The central character, Tartuffe, bears a strong resemblance to Peter Mandelson, or maybe an amalgam of discredited figures. Ann Widdecombe's famous description of Michael Howard - "There is something of the night about him" - is tossed in just to put us on the scent.

In terms of political satire, *The Impostor* hits its targets well enough. Yet the attack is hardly savage, more a sorrowful head-shaking over such transgressions from an old and trusted friend. Or maybe it's just an acceptance of the fact that governments have unseen workings as well as the puppet strings that are on view. Acceptance is more dangerous than indignation.

The large cast - for a start, Fred Ridgeway as Orgon, the archetypal northern businessman prepared to put down real brass to become mayor, becomes the more and more perplexed pivot of the farcical proceedings. Dermot Kerrigan's Tartuffe - a hypocrite right down to his underpants, prepared to justify anything unseemly in an insurance salesman's suit - carries off the self-righteous, sunny optimism of the character. In true political farce style he is caught, literally, with his pants down. Elmore, given the task of seducing Tartuffe in order to expose him, is played by Kim Thompson who handles French farce at its trickiest. The ending is from the with-one-bound-Jack-was-free school, but the audience went away happy.

ALLEN SADLER

To 6 March (01752 267222)

DEBUT: DAVID CALDER

The Time: 1967

The Place: Bristol Old Vic

The Part: A pirate in *Treasure Island*

MY FIRST job was at the Bristol Old Vic, then the country's leading repertory theatre. Quite early on, around Christmas time, when I was appearing in *Treasure Island*, my agent got me my first audition for a television job. They wanted to see me in London on a Wednesday morning, but I had to be back in time for a matinee in the afternoon. It was high adrenaline stuff and afterwards I was so preoccupied with how it had gone that in

stead of getting on the Bristol train, I got on the Cardiff train - which doesn't stop at Bristol. My anxiety levels went up and up. I changed at Cardiff and managed to get back to Bristol, with a short time to get to Colston Hall before I had to be on stage. I grabbed a cab, and started to take my clothes off, much to the amazement of the cab driver. I rushed all the way up the stairs literally taking my shirt off and burst into the dressing-room, to find the pirates all dressed and ready to go. They completely took the spirit of the thing, cheering me to the line to get out there and onto stage. I got into costume and



suddenly, as you do in these situations, time stops and you think you've made it. I thought I had enough time to put some make-up on. I grabbed the

spoon and dabbed myself with it, leaving a complete ring of brown tan round my face. I was then thrown on stage.

Everyone turned, looked at me, saw this face and collapsed. The play couldn't continue - the laughter was unstoppable. The audience didn't know why these hairy pirates were being rather camp, falling about on stage. To pull ourselves back together, we had to go from being laughing pirates to being very angry ones, gritting our teeth and persevering.

Afterwards, Val May, the artistic director, told me in no uncertain terms about the discipline of theatre. It's hard in those situations to keep a straight face, but I managed to. If I'd laughed, I'd have been out on my ear. I've never had quite such an unfortunate experience since, but it happens to us all and when it does, it's beautifully humbling. Actors can get over-serious about what they do; there's nothing wrong with having a quick laugh at yourself.

INTERVIEW BY DOMINIC CAVENDISH

David Calder stars as Prospero in *The Tempest*, Barbican, London EC2 (0171-638 8891) to 4 Mar

ON THE FRINGE

ZOYKA'S APARTMENT OLD RED LION ■ THE GREEN SNAKE RIVERSIDE STUDIOS ■ BLUEBEARD LITTLE ANGEL THEATRE

STALIN WENT to see Bulgakov's *The Day of The Turbins* 15 times, but it is unlikely that his ghost will bother to go to the production of *Zoyka's Apartment* at the Old Red Lion. The actors have taken a play encapsulating the febrile decadence and demonic pleasures of Twenties Russia, only to translate it into a series of bland walk-on parts.

This is tragic - not least because the play portrays a fascinating era in Russian politics. In 1921 Lenin re-introduced private enterprise to a country aching with economic discontent, which led to an explosion of blackmail and corruption. Against this backdrop, Bulgakov's

aristocratic Madame Zoyka turns her apartment into a dressmaker's shop by day and a brothel by night. The resulting grotesque fantasy world - a hustl of pimps, aristocratic whores, opium dealers, and self-made bureaucrats - becomes a political statement about the depths to which the former ruling class sank in their desperation to escape to the West.

The play loses life through slack pacing and neurotic acting. You wish the characters were on speed rather than opium - and while Nina Field's Zoyka is delightfully disdainful, she lacks the dynamism needed for the creator of this hall of post-revolutionary horrors.

The other problem is the director's decision to stick to naturalism rather than playing up artificial elements in Bulgakov's wonderful script. This is not a criticism that could be hurled at Michael Chase's direction of *The Green Snake*. The play fuses Goethe's myth of death and rebirth with the unfolding dramas of five individuals waiting for a train delayed by problems more

inherent than leaves on the line, their personal tales echoed in a mythical world portrayed by an eclectic collection of mask traditions, ranging from Greek tragedy through to Sicilian puppet theatre. Pretentious programme notes aside, there are

individual strengths. Adrian Williams-Brett's singing mythical pyromaniac provides a stylish bridge linking the real-life to the mythical scenes, while Philippa Williams-Brett brings touching comic conviction to her Noh-inspired babbling old lady, but a cardboard script for the real-life scenes and woefully choreographed movement scupper its intentions.

It does not begin to fall into the same league as Henk Schut's excellent adult puppet *Bluebeard*. This production picks up on the myth's tortured sexuality - as highlighted in Angela Carter's *The Bloody Chamber* - and manages to make wooden dolls and a bunch of rusty keys say

more about fear and poisoned lust than many carefully crafted scripts.

The animators interchange masks and puppets in this intense and focused performance, frequently melding their own body movements with those of the dolls. Simple acts such as eating a melon or rolling a ball become charged with sinister symbolism. If you never thought a piece of wood could be sexual, catch the Little Angel Theatre on tour.

RACHEL HALLIBURTON
Old Red Lion, London EC1, (0171-837 7816) to 20 Mar; Riverside Studios, London W6 (0181-237 1111) to 13 Mar; Little Angel Theatre tour (0171-226 1787)

What did you do in the past, daddy?

REVIEW

THREE DAYS OF RAIN
DONMAR WAREHOUSE
LONDON

KEEPING a diary, as Gwenolene remarks in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, is essential. "One should always have something sensational to read in the train." Most people's diary entries, however, degenerate to weather reports. When Walker (Colin Firth) discovers his late father's secret journal, he and his sister Nan (Elizabeth McGovern) are disappointed to see that the very first entry is shockingly bland: "Three days of rain".

For the siblings, this comes as something of an end, but for the playwright Richard Greenberg it is a cunningly constructed beginning. This last in the Donmar's American season, is an often fascinating study of the legacy of two architects whose family home is a world-renowned landmark and the centre of an emotional whirlpool for their children.

The sibling rivalries of the well-layered characters are deftly established as Nan meets up with neurotic Walker for the reading of the will. She's furious with him for having disappeared for months, leaving her to deal with their father's death and their helplessly airy mother, wittily described as "Zelda Fitzgerald's less sane sister". Complicating matters is Pip (David Morrissey), son of Ned's partner Theo



and former lover of the now-married Nan. Walker's realisation that he has been partially discredited triggers old jealousies. Then, at the climax of the first act, he dramatically puts the lid on the past. "God damn you," cries Nan, "Now we'll never know anything."

We, however, quickly learn much more as the second act cuts back to the time of the diary to reveal the unwritten truth. The same actors now play their parents, filling the stage with correspondences through the years. Pinter reversed the action in *Betrayal*, and Kaufman & Hart played a similar game in 1934 in *Merrily We Roll Along*, but Greenberg's twist cleverly explores the idea of the sins of the father.

The director, Robin Lefevre, coaxes witty, beautifully modulated performances from his cast, all of whom resist the temptation to signal too heavily. DAVID BENEDICT
To 13 Mar (0171-369 1732)



Neville and Doreen Lawrence, pictured after the release of the official report on the death of their son Stephen

The witch that hell sent back



THE TEMP

FOR SOME reason, they put me on to be the person who does the collection. Melanie Martineau is leaving on Friday, and I am responsible for her present. So I find a giant Jiffy bag in the recycling bin and set off round the office to get people to part with their hard-earned cash.

I start, naturally, with the people who sit nearest. Some sigh and grumble about the cost, but dig into their pockets and chuck in the odd heavy coin. The big boss finds a tenner. Within minutes, the bag weighs a satisfying amount and I'm feeling confident.

Get to finance. Stop beside a good-looking young man whose eyebrows look as if they've recently curled up for a good dose in the sun.

"Hello," I say. He looks up brightly.

"Hello," he says back.

"What can I do for you?"

"I'm collecting for Melanie Martineau's leaving present."

"Leaving present?"

"She's leaving on Friday."

"No!" he leaps to his feet and rushes to the next-door desk, crying: "Paula! Paula! Guess what?" Paula looks up.

"Melanie Martineau is leaving on Friday."

"What?" Paula's voice rises to a shriek.

"Yes!" He claps her about the shoulders and she, disconcertingly, shoots out of her chair and punches the air like a footballer who's just bought a new Ferrari.

"Yesss!" she shouts.

Suddenly finance is in full party mode, and when hamster-brows comes back with a fistful of coins and throws them into the Jiffy bag with the words "There, see what you can get her with this", I accept it with pleasure and move on.

To the land where everyone's forgotten their purse. Eight people in a row say, "Sorry, this is hard to go to the cashpoint", or "Can you come back? I don't know what to tell her."

I don't care to ask why, but he tells me anyway. "Melanie Martineau," he says, "is the witch from hell. Hell, in fact, sent her back."

I flunk out in marketing, apart from the department head, who slings in the smallest note she can find with a groan. They are the last stop on my route, and, despite this disheartening end, I return to my desk with weighty plunder and a light heart. I've always rather enjoyed the leaving-present thing: it's one of the few opportunities you get to spend a silly amount on flowers.

I tip my body out on to the desk, to find that, including the tanner and the fiver, I have managed, from 100-odd staff, to collect £19.78 - mostly in 1p, 2p and 5p coins.

No. She seems to be out of the office all week.

Well, that figures. Well, look, this isn't meant to be rude, but let me say one thing.

I wouldn't give a present to Melanie Martineau if you held a gun to my head and threatened to blow my brains out, and I know that the majority of the people here feel the same way. Just a warning, in case anyone else reacts as strongly as me."

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NEW FILMS

LOVED (15)

Director: Erin Dignam

Starring: Robin Wright Penn, William Hurt

Erin Dignam's *Loved* has been collecting dust on distributors' shelves for nearly two years now. Not because it's bad, one imagines, but because it's so subtly unclassifiable, so removed from the stock methods of tackling its volatile subject matter. Robin Wright Penn stars as an abused ex-girlfriend lied upon by William Hurt's lawyer to testify against her brutal former boyfriend. Yet *Loved* deliberately evades the hectoring quality that fuels so many TV movies. Instead, it paints charged and troubled relationships for what they are: complex, personal and inextricably entwined. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue

PAINTED ANGELS (15)

Director: Jon Sanders

Starring: Kelly McGillis, Brenda Fricker The angels are whores; the paint from the gloomier end of the palette. Jon Sanders' revisionist western revolves around a frontier brothel presided over by Brenda Fricker's no-nonsense madam. Earthy, naturalistic acting goes hand in hand with Gerald Parker's evocative visuals, though the downbeat handling makes it slow going at times. West End: ABC Piccadilly, *Reino*

PERDITA DURANGO (18)

Director: Alex De La Iglesia

Starring: Rosy Pérez, Javier Bardem Alex De La Iglesia's quasi sequel to David Lynch's *Wild at Heart* is a strutting Tex-Mex caper, tequila-ed to the gills and running on a kind of posturing wackiness. Rosy Pérez acquires herself as well as the vivacious heroine who abducts a pair of all-American virgins, while *Live Flesh*'s Javier Bardem simply glowers from beneath a comedy wig. It's camp, garish and annoyingly entertaining. West End: Clapham Picture House, Metro, Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Haymarket

THE THIN RED LINE (15)

Director: Terrence Malick

Starring: Sean Penn, Nick Nolte See *The Independent Recommends*, right.

West End: Odeon Leicester Square

TITANIC TOWN (15)

Director: Roger Michell

Starring: Julie Walters, Nuala O'Neil

All aboard for Troubles-tint Belfast, circa 1972. The IRA and British forces are taking potshots at each other. Civilians are dying in the crossfire. Julie Walters's local mums lobby for a ceasefire and is caught between the opposing factions. Michell's fact-based fable is well-intentioned, but it's faintly lightweight, too. For a film impotent about rage, waste and human passions, it's low on dramatic oomph. West End: ABC Swiss Centre. Local: Kilburn Tricycle Cinema

URBAN LEGEND (18)

Director: Jamie Blanks

Starring: Jared Leto, Alicia Witt

As 1976's *Halloween* spawned a crop of shabby wannabes, so Wes Craven's *Scream* is siring its own breed of movie ruffians. Enter *Urban Legend*, Blanks's stalk-and-slash romp, which clones *Scream*'s tics, twists and in-jokes in much the same way that its campus killer mimics the crimes of popular myth. The result is a strangely bland and inconsequential. West End: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

YOU'VE GOT MAIL (PG)

Director: Nora Ephron

Starring: Tom Hanks, Meg Ryan

Riffing from her earlier, more assured *Sleepless in Seattle*, Ephron ushers seasoned pros Hanks and Ryan through a contrived romantic comedy that's zapped out of its old-fashioned rut by a shrewd Internet plot hook. Hanks and Ryan squabble in daily life and get all gooy on-line, resulting in a brew that is soft, studly and just slightly on the turn. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

XAN BROOKS

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

AFFLICTION (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Chelsea Cinema, *Reino*

ANTZ (PG)

If nothing else, this computer-animated trifle is surely the most unlively Woody Allen movie we will ever see. *Repor*ty: Prince Charles. And local cinemas

BUFFALO '66 (15)

As promising as it is, Vincent Gallo's film about an ex-con (played by himself) who kidnaps a teenager (Christine Ricci) in order to convince his parents that he is married, doesn't measure up to its influences. West End: ABC Whiteleys, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

A BUG'S LIFE (U)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.

West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

I THINK I DO (15)

Ah, the wedding caper: An excuse for reunions, for an ensemble cast, for the tensions of etiquette against emotion. Writer-director Brian Sloan ticks all the right boxes during this spry baby-boomer outing, and yet it's too hyperactive and ingratiating. West End: ABC Swiss Centre

JACK FROST (PG)

The respective trajectories of two stars meet in this out-of-season *Yuletide* caper. On the way down goes Michael Keaton as a self-obsessed blues-man who dies and is reincarnated as a snowman. And on the way up is *The Full Monty*'s Mark Addy as his salt-of-the-earth best mate. Formula fun is had by all. West End: UCI Whiteleys, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (LA VITA È BELLA) (PG)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.

West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Mayfair, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Kensington, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

LITTLE VOICE (15)

Holed up in her bedroom, timid North Country sparrow LV (Jane Horrocks) perfects strident Shirley Bassey/Judy Garland impersonations. Bracing black comedy. Horrocks's vocal pyrotechnics, plus a marvellously weighted turn from Michael Caine push it through to the final curtain. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Virgin Fulham Road. *Repor*ty: Riverside Studios Cinema. And local cinemas

THE OPPOSITE OF SEX (18)

Don Roos's harum-scarum trip through American gender politics leans heavily on a fire-cracker performance from Christina Ricci as the dastardly teen whose precocious antics send the adults (Michael Donovan, Lisa Kudrow) into a state. West End: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

T (PI) (15)

What sustains it is the pure-blood ingenuity of its central conceit, its ongoing "mathematics is the language of nature" mantra and the louche, too-cool-for-school demeanour. It all adds up. West End: ABC Pantom Street

PRACTICAL MAGIC (12)

Essentially a sibling soap-opera with a dash of embo-jumbo, *Practical Magic* sees Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman cast as two mismatched sisters raised from a line of witches. West End: Warner Village West End

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.

West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Trocadero. *Repor*ty: Phoenix Cinema. And local cinemas

HOLY MAN (PG)

Jeff Daniels plays Ricky, a scuzzball TV executive. Fearful for his job, Ricky uses spiritual wanderer G (Eddie Murphy) as a frontman on his shopping show and sales go through the roof. G, in turn, teaches Ricky a few soulful lessons; you know about life and stuff. Parts of *Holy Man* are very funny but the film never quite finds the right tone. West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

HOW STELLA GOT HER GROOVE BACK (15)

Essentially this is *Shirley Valentine* with an Afro-American spin but Angela Bassett works hard to make an impression among the slide-show of tourist-brochure visuals. West End: Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

The Thin Red Line (15)

Terrence Malick returns to the screen after a 20-year absence with a hugely ambitious film about the battle of Guadalcanal. A war movie of a sort, though what that sort might be is uncertain.

Life is Beautiful (La Vita è Bella) (PG) Roberto Benigni directs and stars in this tragicomic fable (right) about an Italian Jew who tries to shield his boy from the horrors of a Nazi concentration camp by pretending that it is an elaborate game.

Shakespeare in Love (15)

This enjoyable romp suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the creative inspiration for *Romeo and Juliet*. Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow head a multi-star cast.

A Bug's Life (U)

Less sophisticated and more child-friendly than *Anic*, this animated feature spins an enjoyable yarn about an ant colony and its battle to survive. Kevin Spacey provides the voice of the chief grasshopper.

Affliction (15)

Paul Schrader's bleak study in fatherhood and fatalism, adapted from Russell Banks's novel, stars Nick Nolte as a man struggling to escape the influence of his violent dad (James Coburn).

ANTHONY QUINN

ABC PANTOM STREET

(0870-902 0420) \oplus Piccadilly Circus

Circle, Embankment, 2.15pm

5.15pm, 8.15pm Lock, Stars &

Two Smoking Barrels 1.15pm,

3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm My

Name Is Joe 6.20pm, 8.40pm x

[PI] 1.30pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm,

8.45pm

ABC PICCADILLY

(0171-287 4322) (from 1pm) \oplus

Piccadilly Circus

Embassy, 2.15pm, 6.15pm

8.30pm, 11.15pm Painted

Angels 1.10pm, 3.40pm,

6.05pm, 8.30pm The

Something About Mary 3.35pm,

8.20pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE

(0870-902 0403) \oplus

Leicester Square

Piccadilly Circus/Buffalo

6.45pm, 8.40pm Hotel du Nord

1.40pm, 6.30pm I Think I Do

3.10pm, 5.10pm Titanic

2.05pm, 4.25pm, 6.40pm

8.55pm La Vie Révée des Anges

1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.05pm,

8.25pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD

(0870-902 0412) \oplus

Tottenham Court Road

1.20pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm

8.20pm Perdita Durango 9.30pm

[+ Short: Grandpa] Shakespeare

in Love 4.45pm, 7pm, 8pm

10.45pm, 6.30pm, 8.35pm

ABC WEST END

(0870-905 0007) \oplus

Swiss Cottage

Opposite 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm

7.20pm, 9.20pm The

Opposite 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm,

8.15pm, 10.15pm The

Opposite 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm

9.20pm, 11.20pm The

Opposite 4.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.20pm

10.20pm, 12.20pm, 2.20pm

PUTNEY
ABC (0870-8020401) ♦ Putney Bridge/Bug's Life 4pm Little Voice 1.15pm 6.30pm, 8.45pm Shakespeare in Love 2.15pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm You've Got M@! 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm

RICHMOND
ODEON (108705-050007) BR/♦ Richmond A Bug's Life 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm Shakespeare in Love 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm You've Got M@! 1pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm

ODEON STUDIO (08705-050007)
BR/♦ Richmond Don't Be Breaking My Heart 1.30pm, 7pm Hilary and Jackie 3.40pm, 9pm Holy Man 3.20pm, 9.20pm Little Voice 7pm, 9.30pm Stepmom 12.50pm, 6pm This Year's Love 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm

ROMFORD
ABC (0870-9020419) BR/♦ Romford A Bug's Life 2.10pm, 4.15pm, 6.20pm Jack Frost 6pm Stepmom 8.25pm This Year's Love 2.15pm, 8.35pm You've Got M@! 2.25pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705-050007)
BR/♦ Romford A Bug's Life 12.15pm, 2pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm Holy Man 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6pm The Land Girls 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm Little Voice 9pm Shakespeare in Love 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm Stepmom 1.30pm, 5pm, 8.20pm This Year's Love 1.30pm, 7pm, 8.20pm You've Got M@! 1pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm

ODEON STUDIO (08705-050007)
BR/♦ Romford A Bug's Life 12.15pm, 2pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm Holy Man 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6pm The Land Girls 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm Little Voice 9pm Shakespeare in Love 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm Stepmom 1.30pm, 5pm, 8.20pm This Year's Love 1.30pm, 7pm, 8.20pm You've Got M@! 1pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm

PHOENIX
ABC (0870-9020419) BR/♦ Phoenix A Bug's Life 2.10pm, 4.15pm, 6.20pm Jack Frost 6pm Stepmom 8.25pm This Year's Love 2.15pm, 8.35pm You've Got M@! 2.25pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm

PRINCE CHARLES
ODEON (08705-050007) WC2/♦ Prince Charles Leicester Place, WC2 [0171-437 8181] Raising Arizona (15) 1pm The Big Lebowski (18) 3.45pm Sliding Doors (15) 6.30pm Snake Eyes (15) 9pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS
Crisp Road, W6 [0181-446 6789] ♦ La Vie des Anges (15) 6.45pm & The Add House 8.40pm

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE
High Street, Brentford, Middlesex [0181-568 1176] Hideous Kinky (15) 1.30pm, 9.15pm La Vita è Bella (PG) 4.45pm, 9pm

BRIGHTON
DUKE OF YORK'S (01273-602503) ♦ Odipus Rex (18) 1.30pm La Vita è Bella (PG) 4pm, 8.45pm Pecker (18) 6.30pm

WATERSHED
(0117-925 3845) La Vita è Bella (PG) 3pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Your Friends and Neighbors (18) 6.10pm The Apple (Sob) (PG) 8.20pm

CAMBRIDGE
ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444) Hilary and Jackie (15) 1.20pm La Vita è Bella (PG) 2.15pm, 4.45pm, 7.15pm Your Friends and Neighbors (18) 9.30pm

CARDIFF
CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-359666) Hilary and Jackie (15) 2.30pm, 9pm On Connacht a Chan (Sob) (PG) 7.30pm

CHICHESTER
NEW PARK FILM CENTRE (01243-785650) Hilary and Jackie (15) 1.30pm La Vita è Bella (PG) 4.15pm

IPSWICH
FILM THEATRE (01473-215544) ♦ (P) (15) 6.15pm Charlot of Fire (U) 7.30pm Your Friends and Neighbors (18) 8.30pm

NORWICH
CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) Hilary and Jackie (15) 5.45pm, 8.15pm

PLYMOUTH
ARTS CENTRE (01752-206114) La Vie des Anges (15) 8pm, 8.30pm Out of Sight (15) 8pm

SURRY QUAYS
UCI (0990-888990) ♦ Surrey Quays Antz 12.50pm A Bug's Life 1pm, 2pm, 3.20pm, 4.30pm, 6pm, 7.10pm, 8.30pm, 11pm Holy Man 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm, 11.30pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 9.55pm Jack Frost 2.50pm, 5.10pm Little Voice 7.30pm Madeline 1.40pm, 4.40pm The Opposite of Sex 10.10pm Shakespeare in Love 1.15pm, 4.15pm, 7.15pm You've Got M@! 1pm, 4.10pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm, 11.55pm

STREATHAM
ABC (0870-9020415) BR/♦ Streatham Hill Hideous Kinky 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9pm Shakespeare in Love 2.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.25pm Stepmom 2.20pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm

ODEON (08705-050007)
BR/♦ Streatham Hill A Bug's Life 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9pm Holy Man 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm This Year's Love 1.30pm, 3.10pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm You've Got M@! 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.15pm

STRATFORD
NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (0181-555 3366) BR/♦ Stratford A Bug's Life 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm La Vita è Bella (PG) 3.35pm, 5.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm This Year's Love 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 8pm You've Got M@! 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

STREATHAM
ABC (0870-9020415) BR/♦ Streatham Hill Hideous Kinky 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9pm Shakespeare in Love 2.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.25pm Stepmom 2.20pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm

THEATRE
CINEMA COUNTRYWIDE

CINEMA REPERTORY

CINE LUMIERE Queenberry Place, SW7 [0171-838 2144/2146] ♦ Japon des Nantes (PG) 6.30pm La Vie des Anges (15) 9pm

THEATRE
REPETORY

THEATRE WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today, times and prices for the week; running times include intervals. Seats at all prices. Return only Matinee — [1]; Sun, [3]; Tue, [4]; Wed, [5]; Thur, [6]; Fri, [7]; Sat

ALARMS AND EXCURSIONS
Michael Frayn's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messengers stars Felicity Kendal and Josie Lawrence. [1] 6.30pm, 9.15pm Krommer (18) 7.30pm, 9.15pm King Lear (15) 7pm Bicycler (U) 9pm

THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's long-running whodunit St Martin's West Street, WC2 [0171-836 1443] ♦ Leic Sq, Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 2.45pm, [7] 5pm, £10-£20, 135 mins.

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical La Vie des Anges (15) 6.30pm, 9.15pm King Lear (15) 7pm Charing Cross Road, WC2 [0171-369 3446/446] ♦ Picc. Circ, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] 7pm, ends 6 Mar, £19.50-£27.50, £12.50-£17.50 (restriced views), 130 mins.

THE RENT Musical inspired by La Bohème and set in modern day New York. Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 [01700-211221] ♦ Holborn/Tot. Ct Rd, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 7pm, £10-£30, £12.50-£20, 160 mins.

THE WINTER'S TALE Robert Lindsay stars in the historical villain, Savoy Street, WC2 [0171-636 8888/897 0479] ♦ Charing Cross Road, WC2 [0171-369 1111] ♦ Leic Sq, Tues-Sat 8pm, [4] 3pm, [7] 1pm, £10-£20, £12.50-£20, 90 mins.

THE BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Lewis Carroll's musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite fairy tale. Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, WC1 [0171-656 1888] ♦ Holborn/Tot. Ct Rd, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 7pm, £10-£30, 150 mins.

THE COTTESLOE The Riot Nick Dark's drama from Knighthead Theatre, in rep, tonight 7.30pm. £12-£15, £8-£12, £5-£8.

THE BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musical melodrama about twins who are separated at birth. Phoenix Charing Cross Road, WC2 [0171-369 1733] ♦ Leic Sq, Tues-Fri, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] 7pm, £10-£20, 165 mins.

THE PIT Shadows: Riders to the Devil (18) 7pm, 10.30pm, 11.30pm. £12-£15, £8-£12, £5-£8.

THE BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's drama from Knighthead Theatre, in rep, tonight 7.30pm. £12-£15, £8-£12, £5-£8.

THE COLOUR OF JUSTICE Dramatisation of the headline-grabbing Stephen Lawrence case. Victoria Palace Theatre, SW1 [0171-405 0072/cc 0171-404 4079] ♦ Covent Garden/Charing X. Tues-Thur 8pm, Fri 5.30pm, Sat 8pm, £10-£20, half price Friday matinees, £5-£10.

THE CATS Lloyd Webber's musical version of TS Eliot's poems. New London Park Street, WC2 [0171-405 0072/cc 0171-404 4079] ♦ Covent Garden/Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, £10-£20, 165 mins.

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) Reduced Shakespeare Company fast-forward through 37 plays. Criterion Piccadilly Circus, W1 [0171-839 1747] ♦ Picc. Circ, Wed-Sat 8pm, [5] 7pm, £16-£36 (incl booking fee), 130 mins.

THE COULD BE JUSTICE Dramatisation of the headline-grabbing Stephen Lawrence case. Victoria Palace Theatre, SW1 [0171-405 0072/cc 0171-404 4079] ♦ Covent Garden/Charing X. Tues-Thur 8pm, Fri 5.30pm, Sat 8pm, £10-£20, 165 mins.

THE COUNTRY OF JUSTICE Dramatisation of the headline-grabbing Stephen Lawrence case. Victoria Palace Theatre, SW1 [0171-405 0072/cc 0171-404 4079] ♦ Covent Garden/Charing X. Tues-Thur 8pm, Fri 5.30pm, Sat 8pm, £10-£20, 165 mins.

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THE COUNTRY OF JUSTICE</

WEDNESDAY RADIO

RADIO 1

1979-99MHz FM
6.30 Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo
12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45
Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce 8.00
Steve Lamacq - The Evening Session 10.00 Movie Update with Mark
Barrowdale 10.30 John Peel 12.00
Giles Peterson 2.00 Clive Warren 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills.

RADIO 2

1992-92MHz FM
6.00 Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce
12.00 Juliet Morris 2.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Johnnie Walker 7.00 Nick Barracough 8.00 Mike Harding
9.00 Barry Gordy's Motown 10.00
Top of the Pops 2 on 10.30
Richard Allinson 12.00 Lynn Parsons 3.00 - 4.00 Alex Lester.

RADIO 3

902-92MHz FM
6.00 On Air

9.00 Masterworks

10.30 Artist of the Week

11.00 Sound Stories. See Pick of the Day

12.00 Composer of the Week: Tchaikovsky

1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert

A concert given last October at St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol, by the Fibonnaci Sequence. Introduced by Chris de Souza. Ravel: Introduction and Allegro for harp, flute, clarinet and string quartet. Varese: Density 215 for solo flute. Debussy: Première rhapsodie for clarinet and piano. Faure: Piano Quintet No 2 in C minor, Op 115

2.00 The BBC Orchestras

4.00 Choral Evensong

5.00 In Tune

7.30 Performance on 3. Concluding a concert series from Glasgow which focuses on the influence of non-western sounds on the European and American classical tradition. This concert was given on Saturday in the Royal Concert Hall. Introduced by Geoffrey Baskerville. Pierre-Laurent Aimard (piano), BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra/Martyn Brabbins. Copland: El salon Mexico; Ligeti: Piano Concerto. Stravinsky: Song of the Nightingale. Ravel: Suite 'Mother Goose'. 9.05 Postscript: 3: Catalonia is a nation with its own language and history which asserts its rights to be

PICK OF THE DAY

THERE'S A CHANCE to hear the rated English Opera Group Ensemble recording of *Faust* - with Edith Sitwell reciting her exotic verse over William Walton's arch score - in *Sound Stories* (11am R3). Noel Coward famously parodied the piece and the Sitwell clan in his revue sketch *The Swiss Family Whittibot* but this programme takes a kinder view.

Angela Lambert (right) has very little new to say about death in *Lent Talks* (8.45pm R4) but the fact that there's still a taboo about mortality is the chief concern of her candid chat. The Ramp (9pm R4) follows the construction of a microchip fabrication plant in Ireland, a veritable cathedral to new technology.

DOMINIC CAVENDISH

independent of Spain and part of a wider Europe. Joe Farrell reports from Barcelona.

9.30 Wolf Peter Schreier (tenor) and Karl Engel (piano) perform a selection of Wolf's *Motets*.

10.00 Ensemble. Continuing the celebrations marking the centenary of Francis Poulenc, Penny Gore presents an all-Poulenc concert, including the *Beagle* for horn and piano, a selection of piano pieces played by Kathryn Stott, and the rarely heard *Violin Sonata* performed by the young French violinist Philippe Grafin and pianist Stephen Coombs.

10.45 Night Waves. Patrick Wright talks to Kary Mullis, the Nobel Prize-winner for chemistry who is also a geneticist, mathematician, philosopher and surfing survivor of the 60s. His latest book, described as a romp through diverse fields of inquiry, is called 'Dancing Naked in the Mind Field'. The programme also includes an exploration of the function and future of the Commonwealth as it approaches its fiftieth birthday.

11.30 Jazz Notes

12.00 Composer of the Week: Copland (R3)

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night

RADIO 4

92.4-94MHz FM

6.00 Today

9.00 NEWS: Midweek

9.45 Serial: Zarafa

10.00 NEWS: Women's Hour

11.00 NEWS: Crimewatch

11.30 Tomorrow at the Same Time

12.00 NEWS: You and Yours

1.00 The Word at One

1.30 Inspiration

2.00 NEWS: The Archers

2.35 Afternoon Play: Women on Love

3.00 NEWS: Gardeners' Question Time

3.45 First Nights (R)

4.00 NEWS: All in the Mind

4.30 Thinking Allowed

5.00 PM

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.30 Ballyhooly (R)

7.00 NEWS: The Archers

7.15 Front Row. Mark Lawson with the arts programme, including an investigation into that abiding stereotype - the English eccentric.

7.45 The Cry of the Bittern. An environmental drama by Tim Jackson.

With Sean Baker, Rachel Atkins and Marian Kermer. Director Peter Leslie Wild (3/30).

8.00 NEWS: The Moral Maze

8.45 Lent Talks. The Dove Descending. Writers from a variety of religious perspectives offer their views on the Easter story. See Pick of the Day.

9.00 NEWS: The Ramp. Building a state-of-the-art silicon chip plant is the biggest corporate poker game in the world. Peter Day reports on the process at the heart of the new technology. See Pick of the Day.

9.30 Midweek. Libby Purves and guests engage in lively conversation.

10.00 The World Tonight

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Ernest Hemingway Centenary - The Sun Also Rises. John Sharian reads Hemingway's acclaimed novel, whose protagonist, Jake Barnes, speaks for the Lost Generation of men and



women drifting through a shattered Europe after the First World War (3/10).

11.00 NEWS: Truly, Madly, Bitchely. Written by Julian Dutton. A feast of entertainment from the town they forgot in the AA Guide to Weekend Breaks'. With Julian Dutton, Liz Fraser, Peter Hugo-Daly, Stephen Critchlow and Matthew Bell. Special guest Cleo Rocos (4/6).

11.15 Macmillan's Palace.

11.30 Mammon.

12.00 News.

12.30 The Late Book: Stories by Anton Chekhov.

1.00 Shipping Forecast.

1.30 World News

1.45 Shipping Forecast

1.50 Inshore Forecast

1.54 Prayer for the Day

2.47 - 6.00 Farming Today

RADIO 4 LW

9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00

12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast

11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament

RADIO 5 LIVE

(93.3, 90.9kHz MW)

6.00 Breakfast

9.00 Nicky Campbell

12.00 The Midday News

1.00 Rusco and Co.

4.00 Drive

7.00 News Extra

7.30 John Inverdale's Football Night

Coverage of the first leg of the

Champions League quarter-finals, with Manchester United playing host

to Inter Milan and Dynamo Kiev visiting Real Madrid.

1.00 Littlejohn. Comment on Manchester United's clash with Inter Milan and the rest of tonight's European and domestic soccer action by calling Richard Littlejohn on 0500 909693.

1.10 Late Night Live. With Nick Robinson, including a late news briefing at 11.00, and at 11.15 *The Financial World Tonight* and a topical late-night discussion.

1.00 Up All Night.

5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM

(100.1-101.9MHz FM)

6.00 Nick Bailey 6.00 Henry Kelly

12.00 Requests 2.00 Concerto

3.00 Jamie Crichton 3.30

Newspaper 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven 9.00 Evening Concert: A programme of works directed by the tenor Peter Schreier. Bach: *Triple Concerto* in A minor, BWV1044. C P E Bach: *Concerto* in A minor, BWV1044. Peter Schreier, Tapiola Sinfonia, Schubert: *Mass No 5 in F* in A flat, D768 (Missa Solemnis). Peter Schreier, Choir, Offenbach in B flat, D653. Peter Schreier (tenor), Bavarian Radio Chorus and Orchestra/Wolfgang Sawallisch, Berlin: *Falla Concerto* in E minor. Patrick Gallois, C P E Bach Chamber Ensemble 11.00 Alan Mann 2.00 Concerto 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO

(125, 157-159MHz FM)

6.30 Chris Evans 6.30 Russ

Williams 1.00 Nick Abbot 4.00

Harriet Scott 6.45 London Calling with Harriet Scott/AM Pets and Geoff

7.30 Pete and Geoff 10.00

Mark Forrest 1.00 Steve Power

4.30 - 6.30 Richard Allen.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO

(198kHz LW)

1.00 The World Today 1.30 Meridian (Live) 2.00 World Today 2.30

Everywoman 3.00 World Today

3.20 Sports Roundup 3.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00

7.00 The World Today (4.00-7.00)

TALK RADIO

6.00 Big Boys Breakfast with David Banks & Nick Ferrari 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Justice with Jacobs 1.00 Anna Reesum 3.00 Peter Deeley 5.00 The SportZone

7.00 Outside with Seb Coe 8.00 James Whale 12.00 Ian Collins.

CHESS

JON SPEELMAN

Rafael Vaganian, an Armenian now resident in Germany, who ended up clear first on 25/34. He was followed by Tivakov on 24, Lautier, Balkan and myself on 23.5. Gurevich on 23, Van Wely and Schmalz on 22.5 and Shirv on 22. I was fortunate that in the penultimate round my opponent took my king - the correct procedure was to stop the clock and claim the game - which in this event was deemed to be an immediate draw!!

The games on the top board were recorded on an electronic board. Generally, blitz games often contain tactical errors but can be quite clean positionally. Here is a particularly clean win by Vaganian. After some heavy opening theory he won a pawn and then showed splendid technique.

White: Rafael Vaganian
Black: Loek van Wely
Neo-Grunfeld

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. Qe3 Rxg3
2. c4 g6 3. Qe3 Nc6
3. g3 Bg7 4. Qe3 e5
4. Bg2 0-0 5. d4 d5
5. d4 d5 6. Nxd5 Nc6
6. Nc3 Nf6 7. Qd2 Qf6
7. 0-0 Nb6 8. Nc3 Nc6
9. d5 Nf5 10. Qd3 Qe6
10. Qc2 c6 11. Qd3 Nc6
11. dxc6 Nxc6 12. Bf1 Rc7
12. Rb1 Rb7 13. Bf2 Rb7
13. e4 Bb7 14. Bf3 Rb7
14. Be3 Rb7 15. Bf3 Rb7
15. Be3 Rb7 16. Rb1 Rb7
17. h3 Bxh3 18. Rb1 Rb7
18. Bxh3 Ne5 19. Rb1 Rb7
19. Bg2 Ne4 20. Rb1 Rb7
20. Bxh3 Ne4 21. Rb1 Rb7
21. Bxh3 Ne4 22. Rb1 Rb7
22. Rb1 Rb7

BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

HAVING READ somewhere that, if you can see only four defensive tricks against a contract of 3 no-trumps it may pay not to cash them all immediately, East tried what proved to be a highly probable deception on this deal.

South opened One Heart and North bid Two Clubs. As this response at the two level promised sensible values, South jumped to 3 no-trumps and all passed.

West led 4♦ (fourth highest), dummy played low, and East's jack held the trick. He continued with the ace of spades and then stopped to think. The spade position was clear to him but, if he continued the suit, the defence would surely have run out of steam after taking their four tricks.

Instead of leading a third spade, East switched to a low heart. South fell for it. On the assumption that East held no more spades, the contract was safe against any distribution. He won the heart in hand and, to guard against four or more clubs with either East or West, led the club and finessed dummy's ten.

Warning! This sort of defence may not be a good idea against moderate opposition in pairs play. The cunning defence may see declarer, without a care in the world, simply cashing his 10 tricks to leave you with very few match points...

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3860 Wednesday 3 March

